LIFESTYLE / C1
Like wine, good olive oil should be balanced, with body, and round with flavor

ACROSS / A15
Ex-NPA chief says air freer now for Left

WORLD / A22
Hungarian leader's admission of lying in polls sparks riots

METRO / A19
PBA assistant coach charged with acts of lasciviousness by lounge manager

Thai military takeover condemned worldwide

GOVERNMENTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES on Wednesday demanded that Thailand swiftly return to democracy after Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was ousted overnight in a bloodless coup.

Governments across Asia, as well in the United States and Britain, issued warnings to their citizens to rethink traveling to Thailand, a major

PAGE A11

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, September 21, 2006 44 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 285 P18 www.inq7.net

MILITARY might is symbolized by a tank standing guard on Si Ayutthaya Road in Dusit, Bangkok, the district where Government House and Chitralada Palace, King Bhumibol's residence, are located. The white building in the background (with the statue of the king astride a horse in front) is the ceremonial Throne Hall.

KOH ALAMPAY/CONTRIBUTOR

Martial law in Thailand

Marcos' repressive laws still govern us

By Jose Manuel Diokno
Contributor

Editor's Note: The writer is the chair of the Free Legal Assistance Group

THE ONE THING THE PEOPLE POWER Revolution of 1986 did not do was repeal repressive laws of the Marcos dictatorship.

We succeeded in toppling a dictator, but somewhere along the way forgot to do away with his dictatorial laws.

COMMENTARY That is why it took almost 20 years before we repealed Ferdinand Marcos' antisubversion law. It is also why, even now, we are still governed by Marcos laws and highly dubious rulings of a Marcos-controlled Supreme Court.

The provisional Constitution promulgated by President Corazon C. Aquino in 1986 provided that "[a]ll existing laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, letters of instruction ... and other executive issuances not inconsistent with this Proclamation shall remain operative until amended, modified or repealed by the President or the regular legislative body to be established under a new Constitution."

MARCOS? A2

MARTIAL rule "to save the republic and reform our society" is broadcast by President Ferdinand Marcos, with Press Secretary Francisco Tatad beside him, on Sept. 23, 1972.

TIMELINE

Fake ambush of Enrile ushered in martial law

Editor's Note: Below is the sequence of events during the 48 hours leading to the declaration of martial law by the dictator Ferdinand Marcos

Sept. 22, 1972 (Friday)

Before 9 p.m. Then Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, on his way home to Cavenue Rias Village in Makati, is "ambushed" by "communist terrorists" who peppered one of the cars in his convoy with bullets. Enrile escapes unharmed.

He would later admit at a press conference with Hotel Nanson in February 1986 that the ambush had been staged. He and Ramos were part of the "Rolex 12," the group of military advisers who had helped Marcos plan martial law.

Among the 12 were Gen. Fabian Ver, then Armed Forces Chief of Staff; Gen. Romeo Espino, then Army chief; Maj. Gen. Rafael Zagala; Maj. Gen. Ignacio Paz, head of Army intelligence; Air Force Maj. Gen. Jose Rancudo; Navy Rear Adm. Alberto Ruiz; Brig. Gen. Teresa Diaz, head of a key Constabulary unit; Brig. Gen. Alfredo Montoya, head of the Manila Metropolitan Command; Col. Ramon Galas, commander of the constabulary in Tarlac; and, Eduardo Cojuangco, the only civilian in the group.

PAGE A9

Little cause for celebration

By Armando Doronila

THIRTY FOUR YEARS AFTER FERDINAND Marcos dismantled Philippine democracy in a bloodless coup on his second government, Filipinos are uncertain over the survival of their democratic system in the short term.

ANALYSIS The anniversary today inspires little cause for celebration in the light of developments over the past 20 years indicating that Philippine democracy has been on the decline since its restoration in the 1986 People Power Revolution.

Rather than consolidate democracy, the post-Edsa period has been marked by a cycle of political turmoil and constitutional crises that have weakened the fabric of Philippine constitutional system in the face of recurrent political stalemates.

The decline of democracy in the Philippines was acutely heightened by the shocking news of the military coup in Thailand that overthrew the highly controversial government of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who has been engulfed in a constitutional cri-

LITTLE CAUSE? A2

Days of paranoia, nights of unease

By Jose F. Lacaba
Contributor

Editor's Note: The writer is the executive editor of TIME magazine.

SEPT. 23, 1972, IS THE DATE ON PRESIDENTial Proclamation No. 1081 declaring martial law throughout the country, but those of us who lived through the turbulent years of military rule now know that the proclamation was antedated.

Sept. 23 was a legal fiction, used simply because Ferdinand Marcos' lucky number was supposed to be 7, and 23 was divisible by 7.

Sept. 23, two days later, was actually the day we found out about martial law. That was a Saturday, if memory serves (not my own faulty senior-citizen memory, but a fellow journalist's).

On that day, I was holed up in a relative's house.

About a week earlier, there were already

DAYS OF PARANOIA? A8

Ousted in Army coup, Thaksin flies to UK

BANGKOK—THE MILITARY LEADER WHO OUSted Thailand's billionaire Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra in a quick, bloodless coup said Wednesday the move was necessary to end Thaksin's erosion of democratic institutions and hinted the fallen leader could face prosecution for wrongdoings.

In the country's first coup in 15 years, Army Commander in Chief Gen. Sondhi Boonyaratkalin led a rapid, well-orchestrated overthrow while Thaksin was in New York for the United Nations General Assembly.

Not a shot was fired during the nighttime operation, starting late Tuesday.

Thaksin apparently tried to head off the coup by phoning a Thai television station to announce a state of emergency but was cut off after 10 minutes.

The new regime put the country under martial law and declared a provisional authority loyal to the Thai king, seizing television and radio stations and ordering government offices, banks, schools and the stock market to close for the day.

It was Thailand's 18th coup since it became a constitutional monarchy in 1932.

On Wednesday, Thaksin boarded a chartered Thai Airways flight for London at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, a reporter traveling with him said.

"I didn't expect this incident would happen," Thaksin told reporters on the chartered plane as he headed to London, according

THAKSIN A9

AFP officials rule out Thai-style coup vs GMA

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

MILITARY OFFICIALS YESTERday ruled out a Thai-style coup d'etat against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

No coup attempt has yet been staged in the Philippines in the past two decades, studded with recurrent rumbles, while the President was away—as in the case of Thailand.

"The chain of command is intact and we don't see any similar event happening here," said Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff.

"The AFP remains loyal to the duly constituted authorities ... We are taking orders from our commander in chief," Esperon said in a statement issued after his regular weekly meeting with his deputy chiefs of staff in Camp Aguinaldo.

Attending a budget hearing later, Esperon told congressmen that a power grab in the Philippines was "remote."

"We are on the road to a lot of reforms, including making your armed forces ... a pillar in nation building, an organization that will follow its mandate," he said.

"Personally also, I know all the service commanders and I could tell you that a matter of the coup d'etat cannot be entertained in the AFP."

AFP OFFICIALS? A7

'Jueteng' witness calls it quits, leaves RP

By Nikko Dizon

THE "JUETENG" WHISTLE-BLOWER IS NOW among the army of overseas Filipino workers.

Without fanfare, Sandra Cam flew out of the country on Tuesday to work in the Middle East.

Cam was a passenger of Cathay Pacific Flight CX 900, which took off at noon from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, according to the

JUETENG? A6

A2
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2006

WEATHER FORECAST

EXPECT DAY: Andrew Love: Tropical disturbance will maintain cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms in the afternoon or evening.

Second FRONTPAGE

Nicole: 'Absolute loss of trust'

Rape complainant files bid vs prosecutors today

By Nikko Dizon

NICOLE, THE COMPLAINANT IN THE SUBIC RAPE CASE against four US Marines, will file today a formal manifestation before the Makati City Regional Trial Court expressing her "absolute loss of trust" in the government prosecutors handling her case, her private counsel Evalyn Ursua said.

Ursua, in an interview yesterday, said her client planned "to make official and on-record" her continuing disapproval of the Department of Justice panel headed by Senior State Prosecutor Emilio De los Santos.

Despite the announcement, Malacañang said the government could have use the case through. Its scribe Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters yesterday that "I am the duty of the Philippine government to continue with the prosecution."

Nicole and her mother have charged that the lead government prosecutor of raping them to "just settle" with the US Marines accused of raping her while on board a moving van inside the Subic Bay freeport on Nov. 1, 2005.

They also claim De los Santos insinuated that if they didn't settle, the government may "trade off" the case with that of agriculture controversy Jocelyn Bolante to the Americans in the US and wanted for investigation here of a multi-million fertilizer-fund diversion.

Both charges have been denied by De los Santos.

Nicole earlier said she wanted all the public prosecutors relieved except the government lawyer dazed Nikko. On Monday, however, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez turned down her request. Open confrontations followed, with Nicole's camp calling the DOJ "incompetent," and De los Santos calling her ex-"captain."

Gonzalez also said in a televised interview that Nicole's camp was "exaggerating things to the detriment of her" (with Nicole's camp).

In another forum, Ursua disclosed that neither she nor Nicole knew about the meetings between Nicole's family and the lead prosecutor. Nicole's mother disclosed the meetings after her daughter walked out of her televised last week.

Public prosecutors should yield to Nicole's call "out of dedication" and "refrain in the legal profession," she added.

"Among lawyers, when your client tells you that you're not trained anymore, you say 'okay, fine,'" she explained. "Please, let us not wait for the day when we start calling it a stalemate."

Ursua, said, will ask one more today's hearing when the trial among the accused, Cpl. Keith Silkwood, is scheduled to testify. She will just file the "simple manifestation" before the Makati inner court of Judge Benjamin Pozon, said Ursua.

In an account of the trial before students of the University of the Philippines in Baguio on Wednesday, Ursua said Nicole is "on the verge of contributing that the government is out to sabotage her case" in order to protect the country's relation with the United States.

Should their fears prove to be true, Ursua said their other recourse is to garnish Nicole's case before the Ombudsman on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, which has taken an interest in the proceedings.

Ursua, in her lecture to the UP-Baguio students, said the prosecutor assigned to cross-examine the accused Lance Cpl. Dominic Duncan. She said Nicole was irked when the lead prosecutor handed the cross-examination duties to the talent-blunder duty accused of incompetence, after refusing to allow her (Ursua) to handle that part of the proceedings.

"Kung kasi dun 2 week ang hearing sana, malaki sana ang chance nila ng case day kasi super aga, wala ayong pagal. Wala din ways to rule ng mens. Kahapon ayo ay filed mentir parang shadow ayo si sergeant! Eh would be lucky if he shows up to attend our session out of line in a week. He doesn't take notes. He no talked to us! appears ayo cross-dress the prosecutor," she said.

"I can say this to you because that's the truth, I swear," Ursua told the students.

She said allowing a private lawyer to take over from a government prosecutor would be irregular in most cases.

Ursua said Nicole had preferred that government lawyer replace all the prosecutors except the government lawyer Hazel Valdez, but she decided on Tuesday night to push for "a clean slate instead." With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Xave T. Quintomanda, and Vincent Cabreza of Inquirer Northern Luzon

Senate confident of SC vindication; so is PCGG

By TJ Burgonio and Alexis Puga

SENATORS ARE CONFIDENT THE Supreme Court will uphold the Senate's authority to arrest defiant executive branch officials at the hearing today of the Senate oversight committee on the Presidential Commission on Good Government Chair Camilo Sabio.

Sen. Joker Arroyo will argue the Senate case against Solicitor General Eduardo Nachura who is representing the PCGG.

Sabio, who was arrested and detained last week by the Senate for declining to appear at an inquiry into supposed loans of sequestered corporations, similarly expressed confidence that the high court would affirm his position that Executive Order No. 1 was still valid law.

BUT Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. maintained that the Senate has the power to cite for contempt and order the arrest of officials who defy its summonses as happened in Sabio's case.

"We have our rules, we follow our rules," he said.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said he was optimistic the high court would expel the party of EO 1 pertaining to the immunity of PCGG officials.

'Wise court'

"It's a wise court, and I think that they know the Constitution very well," he said.

"I have no doubt in my mind about the integrity of the Supreme Court in this issue. I'm sure the Supreme Court is going to rule the right thing," said Sen. Richard Gordon.

A fresh looking Sabio, 70, was just so confident about the outcome of the PCGG position.

"I feel fine and I'm ready for the oral arguments," he said, adding that he had no doubt the SC would uphold the PCGG.

Sabio said that while Nachura would be arguing the PCGG case, he would be discussing the issue that concerned his personal liberty. The Sabio's Office last week filed a petition before the SC to stop the Senate hearings.

The Senate oversight committee on government corporations and public services aired his direct contempt and ordered the arrest of Sabio, four PCGG commissioners and five executives of the Philippine Holdings Corp. last Sept. 11 after they refused to appear before hearings.

Besides Sabio, the PCGG commissioners Ricardo Abcede, Nicasio Conti, Tereso Javier and Sucrine Nario and PHC executives Benito Araneta, chair; Philip Soriano, director; Mr. Manuel Andal, treasurer, Julio Jalandoni and Lolita Sicsic, directors.

Sandoval and Rodolfo claimed that Conti and Nario had not surrender bonds. Despite this, Gordon said he would have the arrest orders served on the commissioners, particularly Abcede "since he's growing more nervous and feeding alleged loss against the Senate."

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Why not abolish Senate?

By Alexis Puga

INSTEAD OF THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government, why not abolish the Senate instead?

This was the reaction of PCGG Commissioners Ricardo Abcede and Nicasio Conti to opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel's move to review a bill proposing the abolition of the commission that was formed to recover the ill-gotten wealth of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, his family and his cronies.

"It's really up to Congress. I don't want to cling to any position. But let us compare our records. Maybe it is the senate that should be abolished, not the PCGG," Abcede said.

Conti pointed out that since it was established in 1986, the PCGG has recovered around Php1 billion to the National Treasury.

He said that during the term of President Macapagal-Arroyo, the PCGG recovered P20 billion, or more than half of the total amount recovered since 1986.

The PCGG also won a string of civil cases against the Marcoses and their cronies, including those on the Swiss accounts, the coconut levy fund, and the disputed shares of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., he said.

By comparison, Abcede said that out of 2,200 bills filed by the present Senate, only nine have been passed into law.

"How dismal can you get? There are endless investigations supposedly in aid of legislation instead of meaningful legislation to uplift our country," he said.

He also cited a statement of Sen. Edgardo Angara that the present Senate was "the least productive in the last 20 years."

The PCGG performs a vital task "going against powerful and even dangerous people. We are small and simple public servants doing what is right," Abcede said.

He expressed hope that it has strong list of accomplishments achieved with a meager budget, "smaller than the posh hotel of any legislator." With a report from Christine Avendaño

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Noli, US envoy seeking end to human trafficking

THE FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON Human Trafficking began yesterday to tackle one of the 21st century's ugliest scourges: the thriving international slave trade in which Filipinos...mostly women and children...are among its top victims.

In his keynote address opening the three-day conference at the Manila Pavilion Hotel, Vice President Noli de Castro urged national and local officials to be more aggressive in addressing human trafficking, the most lucrative illicit activity in the world next to drugs and arms smuggling.

US Ambassador Kristie Kenney, in her own remarks to the gathering of government and non-government leaders, said that the problem "threatens people, millions of them every year, who are sold and coerced into slavery with no voice of their own. It is up to us all of us to be that voice."

Many of the victims come from India, Mexico and the Philippines, the top three sources of migrants to the world's brothels.

De Castro said overseas Filipino victims are usually undocumented nationals who gain entry into other countries using visitor's visas and end up working in sex dens or other unsubhuman under debt slavery conditions. Some are legally processed as overseas workers but are victimized through violations of their original contracts, he added.

De Castro, presidential adviser on overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), said human trafficking now affects an estimated 800,000 to 900,000 victims. Syndicates have become increasingly brazen and sophisticated.

De Castro said the Philippines has been making headway in addressing the problem. The country was recently removed from the US watchlist in the 2006 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report.

"The removal from the watchlist is a positive indication that while the country has not yet fully complied with the minimum international standards, significant efforts to do so are being actively pursued," De Castro said. He cited the passage and implementation of Republic Act 9208, or the law against trafficking of persons.

A draft national strategic action plan by the Inter-Agency Council against Trafficking is a good start to combat the problem, said De Castro. He also asked local government leaders to pass ordinances to combat the problem and support the victims.

The conference, called by the Philippine Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking, is supported by the US agency for International Development, Unicef, The Asia Foundation, PLAN Philippines and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. Cynthia D. Balana

Plinky, ex-lover settle custody fight

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—THOSE ESTRANGED lovers have reached an agreement over the custody of their two-year-old son.

"We have agreed to raise our son as friends," Negrense lawyer Abigail Delta, the ex-partner of Filmore expert Mario Fontanos "Plinky" Rocha, said on Tuesday.

Delta and Rocha spent that day with Bobbie, who reached his second birthday with a party for his classmates in nursery school.

Parents and son were also together at a hotel in Bacolod City.

The four-year relationship of Delta and Rocha ended in June last year, with each filing numerous charges before various courts against the other.

On Jan. 3, Bago City Judge Benny Tiosejo issued a temporary protective order that granted Delta custody of the boy.

On Tuesday it looked as if the parents were ready to end their legal battle, at least.

"We have agreed to stop fighting, and to help each other raise our son together as friends, with no one having the advantage over the other," Delta said.

"Our son is growing up and is becoming more aware [of the situation]. We have to fulfill our obligation to him and stop fighting," he said, adding that it was only the lawyers who were making money from their legal skirmishes.

Rocha, who said she had missed her son, spent time playing with him yesterday.

"My son is two and looking good and I am blessed," she said. "It's a good day. I see my son."

Miriam hits Pia for sitting on Poro Pt. resolution

SLAMMING SEN. PIA CAYETANO for not acting on her resolution seeking an investigation of the Poro Point controversy, Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago asked that the investigation be transferred to another committee.

Santiago put her feelings on the record, in the form of Senate Resolution 583 which asks the Senate committee on labor chaired by Sen. Jinggoy Estrada to take over the issue originally given to the environment committee headed by Cayetano.

Santiago noted that "from the time of the first reading—Aug. 14—up to the present, or over two weeks now, the committee on environment has failed, despite repeated reminders, to set a date for public hearing."

She said "national interest requires early public hearing of the issue, which has caused the retirement and reassignment of the Poro Point International Seaport for some two months now, thus throwing out of work the support and workforce of the location."

Santiago wants an investigation on the "unconstitutional, illegal and immoral means" employed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Philippine National Police and the Coast Guard in taking over control of the Poro Point from its private operator.

Bocor but how, Lito "Shard" Simpson, a close ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, has denied allegations he was behind the government takeover. Julie Ladaw-Aurelio

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Cristina Romualdez

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Another fan of IPL is actress/emcee/ design consultant Carmi Martin. She happily relates, "I used to have an uneven skin tone because of pigmentation and freckles. After IPL, my skintone became even! In the past I'd always have to wear make-up because I was so conscious. Now I can go out with only sunblock! I'm confident enough even without make-up because I know my skin is clear and even."

Dr. Jose delivering the IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment to a client

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Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo

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PRC, NBI execs show up at Senate probe of test leak

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

FOUR OFFICIALS from the Professional Regulations Commission and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) escaped arrest yesterday by showing up at the Senate investigation into the cheating scandal in the 2006 nursing licensure examinations.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon chastised in turn the officials—PRC chair Jemma Tupaz-Bianca and commissioners Renato Bobis, Lourdes Arellano and Avelino de la Paz, and the NBI anti-fraud and computer crimes division chief, Efren Montero, Jr.—arrested if they did not show up at yesterday's hearing.

The four earlier invoked Memorandum Circular 109 in refusing to attend the Senate committee on civil service investigation.

Biazon and Sen. Richard Gordon, who had sought the inquiry, were quite pleased at the officials' cooperation.

"We're happy to see that there are some public officials who recognize that there is still a Senate that needs to do its job," said Gordon.

The fact that a Negros Occidental board topnotcher and elevated to the bench probably got him in the hearts of the PRC commissioners, he said.

The chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, Cesario Sotto, was invited and detained last week for defying the Senate summons to appear in another investigation.

At yesterday's hearing, Biazon said the PRC decision not to order a reexamination was final, and after he lifted the citations to allow the lionizing of the board passers despite an ongoing NBI investigation.

Montero reported that the NBI had recommended the filing of charges against Arsenio Bautista and Virginia Medida, the two members of the Board of Nursing who are alleged to have leaked the answers of the leaked test questions.

He said the NBI investigated 14 personalities and prepared a 1,367-page report on the controversy that has tarnished the reputation of the country's nursing profession.

Correction

IN THE SEPT. 20 ISSUE, A STORY ON Page A1 on "Bistro rates take a plunge"—it reported that the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System is set to approve Manila Water Company's proposed rate adjustment "from 16 centavos to 24 centavos per cubic meter or a drop of eight centavos." Manila Water actually proposed to reduce water rates to 16 centavos from 24 centavos per cubic meter.

Sir Ton R. Agustin

Herbal Scientist & Inventor from Tarlac City is also the author of five bestselling books, "The Cancer Survivor Stories", "Breakthrough in Cancer Cure", "Master of the Trade", "Ang Ebanghelyo ng Super Galing na Negosyante & Super Galing na Tindero/Tindera". Daily Seminars on life threatening diseases, how to combat cancers and other diseases, everybody is welcome. Call this Cell No. 0920-9100806

ORDER OF LAKANDULA

President Macapagal-Arroyo confers on Sultan Ogan, president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Order of Lakandula. Malacañang Palace, during yesterday's courtesy call on the President at Malacañang's Music Room. Japan is the Philippines' biggest official development assistance partner. AP/RYAN

Some of the images for 30 seconds then quickly stare at a blank white surface. What do you see?

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Satur, AFP chief face off at budget hearing

By Philip C. Tubeza

ESPERON

OCAMPO

'Who you calling a communist?'

By Blanche S. Rivera

Esperon hits snag at CA

'Pag may layunin, malayo ang mararating

Ipinakikilala ang mga Shell 'Tan ang Pinoy Awardees.

Token Lizares

Mian Añover

Ester Tana

Jun Virata

Joseph Ferrer

Sa pamahon ngayon ng kawalan ng pagasa at kalong kumikwan na bukas, naglalaad ang Shell ng programang naglalayong kompin at bigyan ng karampatan na pantangal ang timong Pinoy na magpatiling inspirasyon at ating lahat. Timong Pinoy na hindi ng kumikatling layunin at bukop upang tumpasan ang lahat ng hadlang na dumating. Timong Pinoy na malayo ang narating.

Si Joseph Ferrer, isang jeepney driver na napagtapos ng kolehiyo ang dalawang anak. Si Ester Tana na fish vendor na tinaguyod ang pantlya at nagpatayo ng bapliya sa kanilang barangay. Si Kapitan Jun Virata na pinarumbad ang Barangay Don Bosco sa Parañaque hanggang sa naging Chairman Barangay sa Pinahaque. Si Token Lizares na kumukanta sa mga concerts for charity na siya rin ang nagpapasya. At si Mian Añover na siyampor at pinarumbad ang Sitio Sanggam sa Laguna. Lahat may layunin, lahat malayo ang narating.

Hindi sila sikat. Hindi sila artista. Hindi nyo sila kilala. Ordinaryong mamamayan lang sila pero sila'y halimbawa ng taas ng kanalunt ng kaloob sino kanila tapat sa kanilang layunin sa buhay. Layunin ng Shell na tulad nila, malayo ang narating n' yo.

Shell

The Daily Gospel

Thursday, September 21, 2006
Matthew, Apostle

1st Reading: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13
Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13

Marcos' repressive laws still govern us

First of two parts | 2

The provisional Constitution (the recognized and even incorporated some provisions of Marcos' 1973 Constitution).

These provisions effectively legitimized the thousands of Marcos decrees, letters of instructions and other issuances that were then existing.

These same provisions paved the way for the transitory provisions of the 1987 Constitution to provide, in Section 3, that "all existing laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, letters of instructions and other executive issuances not inconsistent with this Constitution shall remain operative until amended, repealed or revoked."

While many of these opposed to the Marcos regime called for a sweeping repeal of all Marcos laws, those in favor of a more conservative approach prevailed. Twenty years after Marcos fled the country a good number of his repressive laws are still in force, to add insult to injury, some all important judicial doctrines adopted by the Marcos-controlled Supreme Court are still in effect.

The nine study fusses how many presidential decrees, letters of instruction, executive orders, proclamations and the like were issued by Marcos. There were somewhat helter-skelter among his many decrees, that he brought one only as numbed. Several, in my Congress other is numbered. Several, in my Congress other is numbered. Several, in my Congress other is numbered.

HUMAN rights victims of martial law wage protest at Mendiola Bridge in Manila in this file photo. INQUIRER FILE

Underbelly of legal system

The following are a sampling (other quickly compiled, of what live inside the underbelly of our legal system:

- Presidential Decree No. 1177, the "Budget Reform Decree of 1977." The controversial decree is what allows the executive department to bypass Congress when it summarily appropriates for debt servicing.

PD 1177 provides that any appropriation for the payment of the Philippine government's debt is deemed automatically appropriated. This means that Congress has no say in the matter, despite the constitutional power ostensibly vested in Congress to make appropriations.

- Presidential Decree No. 442, the Labor Code of the Philippines. While many parts of the Labor Code have been amended, the provisions crafted by Marcos on the assumption of jurisdiction by the labor secretary and his power to stop strikes are still in force.

- Presidential Decree No. 818, prescribing a heavy penalty for the theft of any material, spare part, product or article by employees and laborers. This law imposes the penalty of "imprisonment ranging from prision correccional to prision mayor." This means that the penalty can range from a minimum of six months and one day to a maximum of 12 years.

- Presidential Decree No. 2006 on illegal possession of firearms and explosives. While the penalties have been reduced by later amendments, and while the law has reasonable purpose, this law remains the most commonly used charge against perceived enemies of the state to punish their nonviolent arrest and detention.

The silliness is relatively easy to prove in court, and hard for a defendant to refute.

- Batas Pambansa No. 880, the Public Assemblies Act.

This law, enacted by the Marcos-era legislature, was recently relied by the Supreme Court in the celebrated preemptive response case filed against the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The Marcos-controlled Supreme Court also created judicial doctrines (but remain to the business) to this day.

Two more that stand out, on the right to liberty are:

- The Garcia-Padilla ruling, reiterated in the Umil v. Ramos cases, where the high court upheld what would otherwise be illegal warrantless arrests of suspected subversives on the ground that they were committing "continuing offenses."

- The Ilagan v. Enrile ruling, in which the Supreme Court held that once a charge or information was filed in court, the writ of habeas corpus could no longer be invoked by a petitioner in custody (his liberty from an illegal warrantless arrest).

Many Filipinos have gone to jail...and stayed there for extended periods of time—only to have the cases against them eventually dismissed.

Unable to gain liberty because of these rulings, they languish in jail while the wheels of our judicial system process the case at their usual snail's pace. Many more will suffer the same fate as long as these rulings are not overturned or abandoned.

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Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

A. Pursuant to Section 1, Rule 7 of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC-009), as amended, the public is hereby notified of the vacancies of the following thirty-one (31) positions for the (31) positions of Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals at the Division Hearing Room, Ground Flr., New Supreme Court Building:

TUESDAY, SEPT. 26, 2006
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
1. ACOSTA, Francisco P.
2. AQUINO, Guillermo P.
3. BABARAN, Raul V.
4. BARAMAN, Divina Asdrubal L.
5. BONIFACIO, Rodolfo B.
6. BULUAT, Francis N.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 26, 2006
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
1. CRUZ, Ricardo R.
2. CHUA, Kelly O.
3. DOMINGO, Lorna S.
4. CLARAVALL, Rosmari D.
5. ESPAÑOL, Jose Jr. M.
6. FAMILIGI, Josefa A.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 27, 2006
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
1. FRANCISCO, Jose Jr.
2. FRANCISCO, Renato C.
3. GARCIA, Gerard H.
4. GALVEZ, Danilo P.
5. GARAY, Dillen U.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 28, 2006
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
1. GAMPONG, Crescencia U.
2. GARVILLES, Edgar S.
3. FLORENCIO, Philbert I.
4. LAUREA, Emmanuel D.
5. MACAMBAGAN, Thelma-Bunyi D.
6. MANGOTARA, Wenceslao P.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 28, 2006
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
1. MISS, Gresildo Jr. B.
2. MORALES, Vilma B.
3. PADERANGA, Sixto G.
4. PAGUIO, Perlita B.
5. PANERIO, Marivilo P.
6. PAJO, Vilma T.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 29, 2006
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
1. PANTI, Vilma P.
2. POLICARPIO, Timoteo C.
3. QUIAMBAO, Ma. Angelina P.
4. QUIROZ, Alex L.
5. ROQUE, Aida R.
6. SESE, Manuel L.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 29, 2006
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
1. SAPANTO, Manuel S.J.
2. SUAREZ, Vicente D.
3. SUING, Jose V.
4. TABUSO, Rodolfo A.
5. UMALI, Rosalio T.
6. VAY, Marilyn D.

As stated in the amended rule, the interviews shall be conducted in public. The other fifty-five (55) applicants were already interviewed for the same office last March 2006.

B. The JBC also announces the opening for acceptance of applications, of judicial positions in the following COURTS:

1. RTC Br. 11, Cotabato, Antipas
2. RTC Br. 19 & 20, Kidapawan, North Cotabato
3. MTC La Paz, Cagayan
4. MTC Sharrif Aguak, Maguindanao

Applications must be submitted NOT LATER THAN October 31, 2006 to the JBC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, Commercial Bldg., Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Manila/Tel. No. 552-9512 Fax No. 552-9598. Applicants must also submit 5 copies of each of the following:

Application Letter
Personal Data Sheet (JBC Form 1 downloadable from the JBC Website: http://jbc.supremecourt.gov.ph)
Picture (2x2)
Certificate of Good Standing of latest Official Receipt from the IBP National Treasurer
CPR for processing fees
Clearances from NBI, Ombudsman, Office of the Bar Confidant and employer
Transcript of Records
Police Clearance from place of residence
Certificate of Bar Rating

C. The JBC likewise announces that the following are applicants for different judicial positions:

COURT OF APPEALS — MANILA, Manuel Barrientos

MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURT (MCTC) — MAGALIMAN, LANAO DEL SUR: ABANIL, Datuan B. · ABDULO, Ganton S. · MANDUYOG, Abdul N. · PIMPING, Ahmad M.

1st SHARIA CIRCUIT COURT (SCC), MALA - MAGUINDANAO: Mamalu I. · BAGO, Jundra I. · GUIMBANGAN, Edmar SC. · LATIP, Ebnen I. · MACALANG, Amer P. · PANDITOGNA, Ramon A. · SAKUNDIANG, Maryam Mastura · 2nd SHARIA CIRCUIT COURT, SALIC - ARAMIN: Ramon S. · BROWNE, Sheen A. · DAUD, Jundri I. · DUMO, Ali P. · DIMNEN, Nasimar J. · LATIP, Ebnen D. · MASARING, Tago D. · MIPANGKA, Ramguid T. · PANDITOGNA, Ramon A. · RASCAL, Marivic D. · SAMPANG, Jundrimar D. · TALUNDANGAN, Ramon Sukmar · TULAWIE, Larry L. · 3rd SHARIA CIRCUIT COURT, DILAU - ABREO: Habib I. · ALIM, Abdulmajid · ANDAL, Ibrahim I. · ASAN, Ramon T. · ASIA, Norodin T. · BAYARAS, Faisal S. · BAUD, Amina I. · DIOKNO, Hadjanil I. · DUMO, Ali P. · JAMRO, Radzmia J. · MASARING, Tago D. · MACADATO, Mohammad B. · PANDICOGNA, Hanno A. · TABUSMARO, Marwin Sandora · TAWALI, Rahdia S.

The public may submit sworn complaint, written report or opposition against any of the aforesaid applicants and letter thereof, on or before October 31, 2006 to the JBC Secretariat.

All applicants for all judicial positions must submit to the JBC Secretariat ASAP one fair, hard or soft copy of duly accomplished JBC Form 1, current address and landline numbers, and current residence and e-mail addresses.

September 19, 2006

(Sgd.) MA. LOIDA D. VILLAVIRAY
Clerk of Court &
Ex Officio Secretary

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'Jueteng' ...

First of two parts | 2

Sources of intelligence.

Lt. Gen. Jesus Versoza, Bureau of Immigration commissioner, said Cam was allowed to leave because she was not on the bureau's hold-departure list.

Nevertheless, Ianupol said, his staff considered a "rigid immigration check" on Cam because she was a "popular personality" involved in various media issues.

Also, a certain Sandra Cam was on the hold-departure list but with a different middle name.

"She almost wasn't able to leave because our staff had to double-check her name with the supervisor," Ianupol said.

Visa, ticket paid for

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz told the reporter in a phone interview that Cam's visa and plane ticket were paid for by a "government authority" in a Middle Eastern country, which he did not name.

"I know something good will happen to her there," the archbishop said.

Cam has been under the care of Cruz's friendship Bayan Lubos sa Jueteng since her explosive exposé last year linking members of President Macapagal-Arroyo's family to jueteng operations in Ilocos.

In a Senate inquiry into the illegal numbers game, Cam said the President's oldest child, Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo, and her brother-in-law, Rep. Ignacio Arroyo, had been receiving protection money.

Cam also claimed that the two Arroyo children had received an effusive welcome from Cruz when they visited Lingayen.

Cruz denied that either her exposé, Cam realized "headaches and heartaches" primarily because the latter's source ignored her plight as a jueteng witness.

He said Cam also had to undergo major surgery and deal with the libel case filed against her in Gonzaga, Pampanga, by the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, and her second brother-in-law.

'Zero funds'

Rivanda, which took care of Cam for almost a year, "tried to accommodate and support her," Cruz said. "But we have zero funds, too."

Ultimately, he said, Cam's decision to leave and work abroad was a personal decision and nobody would have wanted her children.

According to Cruz, Cam once worked as head flight attendant for a fleet of planes owned by a member of the Middle Eastern royalty. But she returned to Manila to be with her children.

"Then, she has to leave them again because she wants to provide for their needs," he said.

Cruz said that while Cam had wept over her predicament, she was in "very high spirits" when she boarded her plane.

"She's fed up with the government, but she told me that the moment she's needed her for her 'homeland,' I mean, my, she will return," he said, adding:

"She's very brave. She's a fighter."

House probes missing ₱244-M Skyway funds

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE ALLEGED DISAPPEARANCE of ₱244 million in Skyway funds has prompted the opening of yet another congressional investigation.

In the middle of conducting hearings on the controversial handover of the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) to Amari Coastal Bay Development Corp., the House committee on legislative franchises stumbled by accident into information of supposedly missing funds of the Cinco Hijos Manila Toll Operator Corp.

Cinco, which operates the Skyway that runs from Makati City to Cavite in Tagaig, is the joint venture firm formed by the state-owned PHIC and PT Cinco Lawson Gong Perkasa, Indonesia's president's toll road developer.

Representative Juan Miguel Zubiri and Rodolfo Fariñas immediately moved to prepare a resolution seeking a separate legislative inquiry into the alleged misbehavior of funds by Cinco officials.

In the course of the hearing yesterday, Fariñas asked Cinco officials to confirm reports that a recent audit had unearthed some ₱244 million in unaccounted-for revenues retrieved by former Cinco president Jesse Quiambao and other private companies that he controlled.

Cinco vice president Ramon Bautista Jr. looked stunned but did not deny it.

"He was silent, quiet, meek," said Fariñas.

Quiambao, who until September 2004 was Cinco president and CEO, gained extensive experience in project finance in Indonesia.

Fariñas said there were ₱1.36-P million in advances to BCA, a firm identified with Quiambao, and ₱18.5 million in advances to Interbay, another Quiambao firm.

Some of the missing funds allegedly were to personal expenses as that Quiambao had charged to Interbay and payments for representation and political expenses that had been charged to the Toll Road Conversion Right account.

Fariñas and Zubiri then directed the the a resolution seeking a separate inquiry to pry open Cinco's corporate accounts.

They said it was important for Cinco to explain the delay in building Quiambao accountable for his actions.

Zubiri said it was important that a separate inquiry be conducted as the current one's focus was mainly on the extension of the PHCC's franchise.

"We will try to draft safeguards for us but to intervene from with government projects," he said.

Fariñas said there should be laws banning executives involved in long-haul transactions, particularly corporations that have projects with the state, from participating in future bids for government projects.

While Cinco funds are private funds, the amenities certified by its auditors certainly have a bearing on the implementation of the Skyway project," he said.

He added that Cinco had yet to extend the Skyway to Buendia Bautista.

He said that since the government was a Cinco shareholder through the PHCC, it was said as a "trust in secret money from investors."

"This will have a bearing on the construction, operations and maintenance of the Skyway," said Fariñas.

Besides questioning the diversion of funds, he stated that the corporate executives were also involved in other government projects.

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Little cause for celebration 34 years after

First page of A1
Last page
See story February

The Bangkok coup, led by the Army Commander in Chief Gen. Sonthi Boonyaratkalin, however, be close to King Bhumibol Adulyadej, whose blessing is crucial to legitimizing military takeovers in Thailand, announced that the Army had taken control "to keep order in the country."

The Army announced that Constitutional Court was revoking the country's 1997 Constitution and the formation of a "Council of Administrative Reform" that would oversee constitutional changes before restoring "power to the people" and holding new elections.

The coup marked the return of military intervention in Thai politics since 1992, and ended the longest period (15 years) of democracy in Thailand, against a history of coup d'etats since the 1930s. In each place just as liberal democratic academics in the West had been optimistic over the long-term stability of democracy in Thailand.

The Bangkok coup was clearly a setback for democratization in Southeast Asia. It gives further evidence of the retreat since the 1990s of democracy in the region, including the Philippines, which in recent years have flagged tendencies toward authoritarianism.

Not a Rule

The return of the coups in Bangkok cannot be dismissed as a fluke. It could serve as an inspiration for new cycle of coups in the region.

The Philippines, which has history of nearly a dozen coup attempts since 1986, cannot be immune from this contagion. It would be disastrous for any Philippine government to dismiss the Bangkok coup out of hand, and to be complacent with the record of failed coup attempts of the past 20 years.

The Philippines is in the middle of the gravest crisis it has a political leadership that is the least democratically inclined...in just a middle—since the overthrow of the Marcos dictatorship.

Crisis of legitimacy

Only in February, President Macapagal-Arroyo proclaimed a state of national emergency that emulated Marcos' imposition of martial law on Sept. 21, 1972, though not as draconian, but, just the same, put the country under a regime abused up by the military and police. This gives an ironic twist to the remembrance of the martial law anniversary today.

The Arroyo administration is embroiled in a severe crisis of political legitimacy. It has increasingly become dependent on police and military support for political survival against challenges to on short its term coming from the streets and from impeachment moves in Congress, compounded by coup amongst.

The Philippine military is divided in its loyalty. As such, it is an uncertain element. This is a cause for worry. The President has launched an "all-out war" on the communist insurgency in an issue to galvanize solid military and police support for her embattled administration.

In a consequence, Ms Arroyo has lost control of policy on the counter-insurgency campaign. The extreme right of the military has engaged in reckless, caustic practices that have installed what has been denounced as a "reign of terror" in Arroyo's countryside. These, scores of political activists, associated with legal left, have been reported to have been killed in extrajudicial executions, at the hands of anonymous death squads.

These developments, together with the fallback on the use of emergency power to repel challenges from the extraordinary sector and the political environment of coup attempts, all form the political environment to which the decline of Philippine democracy is retrogression.

GMA not in control

Two years before the declaration of martial law in 1972, the country was in turmoil. It was increasingly characterized by a resurgence of communist rebellion and the first few violence of the provincial warlords. Marcos took advantage of this tumult to declare martial law as a justification to save the country from insurrection and anarchy. Those were ideal conditions for a power grab.

But the military was solidly behind him. So, he made a coup on his government. But the lesson is not to be cowed of the military. If there's a threat that can stage a coup—it is not Mr Arroyo.

The success of civilian power is a sweeping environment for a Thailand-type move. We can't take comfort in the fact that opinion polls show Filipinos abhor coups. When the soldiers move, they don't think about opinion polls.

In 1972, the war of Southeast Asia was swept by the authoritarian wave. The Philippines broke ranks with the democracies. More than three decades after, it is ready to march in step to the drumbeat of democracy in reverse in Asia.

Days of paranoia, nights of unease

First page of A1

signs that something big and terrible was about to happen. The headquarters of mass organizations were being raided and shut down, and a few little-known militants had been picked up.

I had been writing articles critical of the Marcos administration and sympathetic to other has come to be known as the proclamation of the seven. And I was a member of an activist writers' organization called Bukluran sa Ikauunlad ng Sining at Panitikan (Literature for the People's Progress).

'Sidestep'

When the raids started, friends advised me to "sidestep"—meaning, don't go home for a while, don't go to work, stay away from your usual haunts.

Then, one day I was temporarily staying with a relative the day seven papers failed to come out, the day radio played nothing but music, the day television ran interminable cartoons, interrupted only by the periodic appearance of the press secretary advising viewers to stand by for an official announcement that Martial law would soon be making.

It wasn't the first time I had "sidestepped." I had done the same thing when the privileges of the writ of habeas corpus were suspended following the Plaza Miranda bombing in 1971. That was a difficult decision to make because I had just been married for eight months and my wife was pregnant. But I soon found out that I was not on the wanted list—and thoroughly went back home and back to work.

'To save the republic'

This time around, however, there would be no work to go back to. After the long day of Sept. 23 ended, silence came out: television announced that he had declared martial law "to save the republic and reform our society."

By then, newspaper and magazine offices and printing presses had been shut down, radio and television stations had been occupied, and hundreds of opposition politicians, student activists, labor leaders, peasant organizers, and fellow journalists had been arrested and thrown into military detention camps.

At first, I thought I was in the clear again. I learned from luck dramatic that no military troops had stormed in to the offices and printing presses of the Asia Philippines Leader, the year-old weekly magazine of which I was, at 27, a senior editor.

And no one had come looking for me at my in-laws' Quezon City house, where I lived with my wife and our newborn son.

But the declaration of martial law had fallen on a weekend. Besides, the Leader was a weekly and had a small circulation, so it was not until the next working day that the troops got around to sacking it and stopping the presses from running the next issue.

Going UG

As for me, it turned out that military intelligence had not updated my dossier. The military unit that had ordered to arrest me went looking for me in my mother's house in Tarlac, where I no longer lived.

Since I was on the wanted list this time, I decided to take leave of my wife and newborn son to go underground—or UG, where I worked with a group of leftist editors, putting out mimeographed semi-tabloid newspapers.

I'd UG-ed several days of paranoia and nights of unease.

Every time the ice cream vendor with his little bell, frequent too long an omit our house, we stopped banging on our Japanese-type portable typewriter and pretended that we didn't look like a military agent doing surveillance work.

Every time one of us laughed too long and too loud, we hushed her up, fearing that her distraction laughter would given away.

When our money had to go out of the house, to meet with other people or just to go marketing, we were never sure we would make it back alive.

We had nightmares over the news stories we were reading in our little newspaper, about friends and comrades whose hands were packed into encyclopedia filled tube boxes and whose bulls were subjected to electric shocks while being tortured, or whose skulls had been cracked open with rifle butts and whose bodies were dumped into unmarked graves that other friends and comrades had been made to dig.

I got caught about a year and a half later, just my share of torture, and spent the next five years in a Camp Crame detention area.

But that's another story.

AMTHROT police collar a demonstrator as government tightens its rose fist in the days before martial law.

Fake . . .

First page
Last page A1

9 p.m. President Ferdinand Marcos calls the nation on Kiribi "the last straw," signs Proclamation No. 1081, which puts the entire country under martial law.

"The actual document was dated Sept. 21. Due to his "obsession" with numerology, Marcos had wanted the fateful date to be divisible by his lucky number 7. When Proclamation No. 1081 was actually signed it is still the subject of debate. Either accounts say it was signed on Sept. 17.

In accordance with the proclamation, Marcos would rule by decree, general order and letter of instruction, functioning both as President and Congress.

Midnight. Not as the list to be arrested is apprehended Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. He is arrested at the Hilton Hotel in Manila by members of the military led by Col. Roman Ileto. Aquino had been discussing tariff matters with colleagues when ambushed "step outside" the hotel. Upon entering to the group, he says, "I'm sorry, I can't address the meeting. I'm being arrested."

Earlier, on Sept. 15, Aquino exposed "Oplan Sagittarius," said to be a blueprint for martial law, on Congress.

Sept. 23 (Saturday)

7 a.m. to 6 a.m. Marcos orders his political opponents rounded up, all schools closed and all communications and public utilities placed under government control.

Without warning, the military seizes and seal media establishments, walking into their offices and posting announcements that say, "This Building is Closed and Sealed and Placed Under Military Control." They also order the staffers to leave.

10 a.m. Sen. Jose Diokno is arrested at his residence.

2 p.m. Sen. Francisco "Soc" Rodrigo is arrested.

4 p.m. By dawn, the Cuneta Cinema gymnasium is starting to get crowded with the 1,00 of the 4000 lists of subversives already rounded up. The list of distinguished invitees includes Former Mitra and Sangu Bonsalla Jr., businessmen Eugenio Lopez Jr., teacher Sha Rosales, lawyer Haydee Yorac, journalist Amando Doronila, and other prominent Marcos opponents, outspoken journalists, labor union organizers and delegates to the 1971 Constitutional Convention.

6 p.m. Radio and cable television sets are blank and newspapers are off the streets as curfew orders.

Journalists remember the first months of martial law as among the darkest. Before rights are suspended indefinitely, and media and telephone operators refuse to accept incoming calls. There is no immediate official announcement, but news about what had happened while the nation was sleeping spreads like wildfire.

Rumors circulate that Senator Aquino's major crime was his opposition to Marcos, and that declaring martial law was a way for the President to stay in office beyond the constitutional limit of two terms.

9 p.m. Press Secretary Francisc Tatad goes on air over television and radio for the first time and tells the country curfew is known of Proclamation No. 1081.

7 p.m. Marcos himself goes on air for the formal announcement of the proclamation. He imposes curfew and bans public demonstrations. Kara Pedrosa, Inquirer Research

sbma
SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Bldg. 255, Alampay St.
SBMA-BAC-IBI-06-012
Various Equipment
SBMA, SBFZ

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY (SBMA), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites manufacturers / manufacturers' distributors / contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder items:

Lot #	Qty.	U/I	Items to Bid	Approved Budget (Upto ABC)
LOT 1	1	pc	Laser Speed Gun	P 60,000.00
LOT 2	20	pc	Wheel Loader / Scoop Loader (Heavy Duty)	P 800,000.00
LOT 3	10 1 1	pc pc pc	Communication Equipment Handheld Radio Transceivers Radio Transceiver (complete base) (Vhd) Radio Base with relay antenna (complete set)	P 80,000.00
LOT 4	1	pc	Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS), 15 KVA	P 370,000.00
LOT 5	1	pc	Rental Cranes	P 1,000,000.00
LOT 6	1	pc	Medium Rescue Engine (MRE) (no. 10 HP, 4 valves & 1 no. 11 HP, 3 valves	P 1,500,000.00
LOT 7	1	pc	Patrol Jeeps	P 1,000,000.00
LOT 8	1 1 1	pc pc pc	Services and Materials for the Supply and Installation of Air Conditioning Units Window Type Split Type	P 600,799.00

Prospective bidders must be manufacturers or authorized distributors of the above-mentioned equipments for bidding. Must have proof of completion for the delivery of the same and related project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the proposed project for bidding. The Supplier/Contractor/Bidder as well as the Principal/Manufacturer must have valid and updated mayor's/business permit/ Interim Permit/Certificate of Registration issued by the concerned LGU.

All participants/bidders in the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Opening of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Schedule	Venue
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 21, 2006 (Thursday) to 1 p.m. 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	BAC Secretariat Procurement and Property Management Office (PPMO) Bldg. 255 Alampay St., SBFZ
2. Pre-Bid Conference	October 4, 2006 Wednesday 2:00 p.m.	PPMO Conference Room Procurement and Property Management Office (PPMO) Bldg. 255 Alampay St., SBFZ
3. Submission / Opening of Bids	October 19, 2006 Wednesday 9:00 a.m. (up) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 2:00 p.m. (up) 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Procurement and Property Management Office (PPMO) Bldg. 255 Alampay St., SBFZ

Bid Documents will be available to prospective bidders only upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,000.00 to the SBMA Treasury Division Bldg. 255 Alampay St., SBFZ.

The SBMA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) ATTY. JOCELYN G. ALVARADO
BAC Chairman

LA UNION ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Sta. Rita East, Aringay, La Union
Tel. No. (072) 714-2030, 714-2031, 321-2048, Fax No. (072) 714-2043
E-mail Address: laelco@yahoo.com

INVITATION TO BID

Pursuant to the provisions of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, the Board of Directors of La Union Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LUELCO) intends to undertake the procurement of the following:

MATERIAL SPECIFICATION/DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
a) Current Transformer Solid molded 5 outdoor type Rating Capacity (preferably 1.2.0 - based) 75:1 Ratio	6 units
b) Potential Transformer Solid molded outdoor type, (preferably 1.2.0 - based) 75:1 Ratio	6 units

Deadline of submission of Bids would be on / September 20, 2006.

Please get in touch with the undersigned or any members of the PBAC for more details and information you will need to know.

Our distribution system is on the process of rehabilitation and system improvements as part of our compliance to the distribution code of the ERC R1-06. In view of these issues, we are planning to submit over bid for the items specified herein below and to witness.

MATERIAL DESCRIPTION/SPECIFICATION

a) 1Ø Circuit Recloser, Single Phase 15 kV, 170 to 630, 170 kVp, 200 Amp, 600 Amp, Minimum Trip Current 2A, 2B Curve, 50 cycle, Rated

b) 1Ø Circuit Recloser, 3-Phase, Minimum Trip Current 200A

c) Short Capacitor Rated @ 15 kV, 50 kVAR, 100 kVAR, 200 kVAR

d) Power Fuse Rated @ 60 kV, 100E, 200, 300, 600 Amp

e) Power Fuse Rated @ 15 kV, 100E, 200, 300, 600 Amp

f) Fuse Cut-out with Lightning Arrester Combination Drawn @ 9 kV, 12 kV, Maximum of 400 Amp

Deadline of submission of bids will be on October 2, 2006.

Please get in touch with the undersigned or any member of the PBAC for more details and information you will need to know.

This newly organized PBAC member of LUELCO has decided to obtain prices of construction materials due to the effect of the 12% VAT imposed by the GRP and the appreciation of peso value in the world market today. In this connection, you are hereby invited to submit your bid on or before September 30, 2006 on specific items mentioned below.

MATERIAL DESCRIPTION

I. Concrete Poles (Medium & Round Type)
20' Poles - 40 Poles
30' Poles - 40 Poles
40' Poles - 40 Poles

II. Wooden Pole (Crossarm & Terminals)
20' Pole - 40 Poles
30' Pole - 40 Poles
40' Pole - 40 Poles

III. Distribution Transformer (7.62/1.2y KV : 220/120/240V)
15 KVA - 20 KVA
25 KVA - 10 KVA
37.5 KVA - 100 KVA

IV. Distribution Cables (Bare & Insulated)
4C ACSR to 4H/0 ACSR

V. Crossarms (Steel & Wood)
4" x 5" x 8"
4" x 5" x 10"

VI. All Line Hardware/Insulators Rated at 15 KV

Interested parties are required to submit their company profile and their latest financial statement. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with the members of the PBAC for more inquiries you would want to be informed.

Please be guided accordingly.

(Sgd.) ELMO S. FARIA
PBAC Chairman

Compensation for Marcos victims expected in 6 months

By Alcuin Papa

VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS violations during the Marcos regime can expected to get their compensations from a United States court in six months, their lawyer said on the eve of the 34th anniversary of the declaration of martial law.

Head of the Presidential Commission on Good Government said yesterday it would appeal the US federal court ruling.

Lawyer Rod Domingo in satellite dishes received formal notice on Monday that the US 9th Circuit Court of Appeals threw out the Philippine government's motion to reverse the case on Judge Manuel Real's initial award of $35 million to the victims.

Domingo is a bridge of the US District Court in Hawaii who awarded $2 billion to the Marcos victims in 1995.

The $35 million would come from an account with New York brokerage firm Merrill Lynch that former strongman Ferdinand Marcos opened in 1971 with a $2-million deposit under the Arelma Foundation.

Domingo said each of the 9,539 victims would get an initial award of $3,000 from a dormant Hawaii account.

The US 9th District Court said the money, while only a small part of the $2-billion award, would have "symbolic significance" and have monetary meaning for the poorest of the claimants.

In a phone interview from his hospital room in Makati City, PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio said: "We will instruct our American lawyers to file the necessary petition with the US federal Supreme Court."

Domingo said the Philippine government was given 90 days to appeal the decision of the US 9th District Circuit Court. An expert of the government to be given 60 days to answer.

"Ordinarily, the US Supreme Court will take 90 days to decide. That would be around March. By April next year, distribution of $3,000 to each qualified victim will be implemented, not under the auspices of Sabio or the Philippine government but upon orders of the US District Court," Domingo told the business.

Sabio said in earlier interviews that the Philippine government would pursue the case because the money rightfully belonged to the government. He based on a July 16, 2003 Supreme Court decision that awarded $658 million in frozen Marcos Swiss accounts to the government.

By law, all the funds recovered by the PCGG go to the Compensation Agrarian Reform Fund (CARF), he added.

Sabio also claimed the deal was disadvantageous to the government and any official who participates or allows the reward would open himself up to graft charges.

Besides, awarding the amount to the victims means that the money is forfeiting to claim on the Arelma account, which amounts to giving up the country's "sovereign immunity," the PCGG chair said.

The concept of sovereign immunity holds that a government cannot commit a legal wrong and is immune from suits civil and criminal prosecutions.

Sabio said the PCGG petition to reburse the case before the 9th District Court of Appeals was filed as a matter of procedure for going up to the US Supreme Court. "If we lose, that is the end. But I am positive we will be successful on the basis of sovereign immunity," he said.

Baseless assertion

His statement did not sit well with Domingo, who said Sabio's and the government "has" tried to throw a "monkey wrench" into the case.

Domingo said his co-counsel Robert Swift hit the government for "leveraging the interest of the victims" as it tried to get its court hands on the Arelma account.

Domingo said Sabio's arguments of sovereign immunity was a "baseless assertion."

The decision of the US Court of Appeals itself "completely debunked this unfounded defense of Sabio," he said.

Domingo pointed to the section of the decision which said that "under the guidance of immunity and good conscience, the sovereign immunity is not the sole consideration."

He also said the decision of the Philippine Supreme Court to award the Marcos heirs accesses to the government "does not apply outside of the Philippines."

"The funds are in the US. So it could not be finally disposed till except through a decision of a US court," Domingo said.

The PCGC knows it has no meritorious claim to the money and is simply using all sorts of dilatory tactics as a safety to protect its interest," he said.

Domingo said that to the foot, no case, the rights of the victims were already upheld three times by the US Court. "While the government keeps on losing and the victims keep on winning, all the legal technicalities are reserved to be the non-beleaguered Sabio, who is a known Marcos man," PCGC a report from Christine O. Avendaño

Thaksin ousted in coup; flies to London

From page A1

to the Thai News Agency (TNA).

"I was prime minister when I came, and I was jobless on the way back," he told TNA, in his first remarks to reporters since the coup.

"My business is worth for the country," he said. "If they don't want me to do that, I won't."

Thaksin aides arrested

The Thai newspapers The Nation said several senior government officials and others close to Thaksin had been arrested, with their fates unknown.

Those arrested included Deputy Prime Ministers Chitchai Wannasathit and Supreme Military Commander Gen. Chaisit Shinawatra, the newspaper said, while Defense Minister Gen. Thammarak Isaranggun Na Ayuthaya could not be immediately reached and Red Army Secretary Pol. Maj. Gen. Watana Muangsook.

Agriculture Minister Sudarat Keyuraphan, one of Thaksin's closest political allies, was reported to be with her family, it said.

Sondhi said at a news conference in Bangkok that a post-coup interim government would retain power for no more than one year.

Sohrid whether there would be moves to outlaw Thaksin's Thai Rak Thai party, Sondhi said "those who have committed wrongdoings have to be prosecuted according to the law" he did not elaborate.

Sondhi said he would not act as prime minister for too weeks on, if a new leader "who is neutral and upholds democracy" was found. Thus, the new government would not hold on to power for more than a year, he said.

Elections in 2007

Sondhi said general elections would be held in October 2007.

Sondhi said at the Thai capital earlier Wednesday to the unlimited night of soldiers on street corners and tanks blocking off the government district.

But the city of more than 10 million was calm and most residents appeared unaffected by the dramatic turn of events.

Nearly 20 tanks – three heavily armored with ribbons in the royal colors, yellow – cordoned off the Royal Palace, Royal Plaza, Army headquarters and Thaksin's residence at Government House.

Sondhi said the overthrow was needed "in order to resolve the conflict and bring back normalcy and democracy among people."

"We would like to reaffirm in that we don't have any intention to rule the country and will return power to the Thai people as soon as possible," he said.

He said the newly created Council of Administrative Reform carried out the coup to end internal conflicts in Thai society, corruption in the government, in order to the reward That King Bhumibol Adulyadej, and what the general called Thaksin's attempts to destroy democratic institutions.

The king endorsed Sondhi to lead the new government, according to a televised announcement.

Assemblies banned

"All people should remain peaceful and civil servants should listen to order from Gen. Sondhi Boonyaratkalin from now on," Sondhi said in his televised address.

A council statement urged workers and farmers – a key constituency of Thaksin – to remain calm, adding that holding a gathering of more than five people was punishable by six months in prison and a fine of 10,000 baht ($265).

LINGERIE—THE BRUTISH GOVERNMENT SAID DUE TO THE PRIME Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and is detained in private and he had no meetings scheduled with Prime Minister Tony Blair or other officials.

"Any citizen of the world is free to visit the United Kingdom providing their passport is in order," a government spokesperson said on condition of anonymity.

"No one come upset by money at his rank if he wants to," he said, referring to a high-end London department store.

Thaksin would have to follow normal channels if he wanted to apply for residency in Britain, the spokesperson said.

Thaksin's daughter Pethongtarn is studying in London, and Thaksin is reported to own property in the city. AP

Coup leaders also slapped strict controls on foreign and domestic media, state television announced.

The order gives the commander-in-chief the right to block "disinformation" deemed harmful to a government military council now in control of the country, the announcement said.

"Please report the news completely and accurately," it continued, in order to bring back confidence in their respective units outside the capital, adding that those who create disconcern should be severely punished.

Thaksin was in New York delivered a speech to the United Nations but cancelled it.

His official government spokesperson, Sampong Sucharitkul, pulled a phony picture.

"We have not yet received what happened," he said. "We are not completely sure of the situation."

AFP officials rule out Thai-style coup vs GMA

From page A1

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz also told the budget hearing that any military involvement in Philippine politics was "always a step backward to building a democracy."

Enrile discussed with Interior Secretary Edmundo Ermita by phone the Thai coup just to get his assessment on it politely, said Enrile's spokesperson, Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro.

Ermita, however, told Malacañang reporters that the Arroyo was monitoring the situation in Thailand. He dismissed suggestions that the coup in Thailand was initiated by the enemies of Thaksin who the were described as a role model.

"In our case, we remain stable. The President is in firm control of government and the armed services are backing up the constitution and duly constituted authority," Ermita said.

"I don't see any reason why we should be afraid. I don't see what the connection is. The situation in Thailand is different from the Philippines. We have political stability," he said.

Bacarro conceded assignment more elements might explore the situation.

"The situation can be taken advantage of by some dissident groups. They can start making propaganda along the lines that since it happened in Thailand, it could happen here. However the Armed Forces of the Philippines is categorically states that it will not happen here," he said.

Army won't yield

Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, the army chief, also issued a statement to stamp out any thoughts that rebel soldiers might entertain.

"The Philippine Army leadership will never allow a similar incident to happen," Tolentino said of emergency in capital after political opposition and rid efforts to unconstitutionally change our country's leadership," he said.

On Feb. 24, Ms Arroyo declared a working national state of emergency to crush what she called coup and rightist "cabal" to oust her.

Thirty-eight officers led by retired Rangers chief Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin are facing investigation for attempted mutiny.

If not the second military uprising against Ms Arroyo, after the July 27, 2003, mutiny staged by some 300 "Magdalo" junior officers and enlisted men at the Oakwood Manila Premier Hotel in Makati City.

Internal consolidation

"We are all aware that previous attempts (to oust the President Arroyo) have failed because of measures being undertaken by the armed forces... We have what we call internal consolidation," Bacarro said.

Brigadier Jaggey Estrada, Richard Gordon and Senator Ralph Recto said that Thai coup showed the myth being propagated by shorter change advocates that a parliamentarism system was politically stable.

"A parliamentarism system like the Thai model still not prevent a military revolt if the administration is corrupt and has no mass support from the people," said the son of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Gordon said the government should not recognize the military leadership in Thailand and should encourage a swift return to democracy.

Biazon said that while the military would be an agent for change it has not capability to govern the nation.

Military rule

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said he hoped the Thai coup would not encourage other Philippine military to grab power. "While Gloria doesn't deserve the presidency, the people don't deserve military rule. Gloria should soon resign."

Sen. Ralph Recto doubted the military would launch a copycat coup. "What we have is a constitutional military," he said.

"The Thai coup just goes to show it has nothing to do with the form of government but has everything to do with transparency, accountability and honesty in government," said House Deputy Minority Leader Gilbert Remulla.

Philippine Ambassador to Bangkok Antonio Rodriguez said the 7,000 Filipinos in Thailand were safe. Most of them are teachers, IT workers, executives and business men.

Thai Airways said flights between Manila and Bangkok remained on schedule. "Everything is normal," said an official. Rich reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, Michael Lim Ubac, Nikko Dizon, Philip C. Tubeza, Christine O. Avendaño, AFP

Thai military takeover condemned worldwide

From page A1

tion he denounced where tanks and troops now lined the streets of the capital, Bangkok.

The European Union joined the international condemnation of the coup in a statement issued by Finland, the 25-nation bloc demanded "that the military forces seized back and give way to the democratically elected political government."

Britain described the coup as "an internal affair of Thailand" and made no public judgment.

"The friendly relations between China and Thailand will continue to develop," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Qin Gang said.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard described the coup as a "great disappointment" and a throwback to the days when Asian democracies were threatened by their generals.

Japanese concern

"We condemn military coups," Howard told reporters. "They are a throwback to a part I had hoped Asia had emerged from."

Japan also called for the quick restoration of democracy in a country where many top Japanese businesses have factories and affiliates.

Thailand has emerged as a major center of production and logistics for many Japanese automakers and other manufacturers, and Japanese businesses have operations, including to large millions of direct investment from Japan.

While it was business as usual for most Japanese companies, the coup disrupted some operations.

"We are monitoring the developments with serious concern," Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso said in a statement.

Wait and see

Indonesia also said it was watching developments in Thailand "with great concern."

Others were adopting a more wait-and-see attitude toward the coup, which arrested amid months of political turmoil and sharp criticism that Thaksin had eroded Thailand's democracy.

"Democracy is not always carried backward judgments," Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill told The Associated Press in Washington. The US state department said that its officials "are monitoring the situation with concern."

Australia, Britain, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong and the United States were among countries that advised their citizens already in Thailand to stay indoors, and for those planning trips to reconsider.

Safety first

Malaysia's Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he was "shocked" by the coup, but his government had not advised Malaysians to avoid their southern neighbor, Malaysia's Bernama news agency reported.

In Taiwan, the Ministry of foreign Affairs said the situation in Thailand looked "peaceful overall" but advised its citizens to mind their safety if traveling there.

That financial officials attending an annual IMF/World Bank meeting in Singapore were rushing home early Wednesday because of the coup, International Monetary Fund chief Rodrigo de Rato said.

Return to civilian rule

But Thai trade officials continued participating at global trade talks Wednesday at an international summit in the northeastern Australian city of Cairns.

Sihkiow, whose President Gen. Pervez Musharraf seized power in a 1999 coup, said in 1999, was "watching the situation with concern," Islamabad spokesperson Rashid Aslam said.

The Asian Human Rights Commission joined international civil liberties groups, including US-based Freedom House and Human Rights Watch, in condemning the coup.

The Bangkok Thai Army must immediately reconvene power and allow for a return to a caretaker civilian government by the most effective and expedient means possible," the commission, founded by prominent jurists and human rights activists, said in a statement.

It also called on the UN General Assembly in New York and the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, both of which are in session, to strongly condemn the coup and also call for the restoration of civilian government. AP

Dramatic fall for Thai billionaire known as the CEO Prime Minister

BANGKOK, THAILAND—EIGHT years months ago, tycoon-turned-politician Thaksin Shinawatra won a landslide election victory and became a rising star on the regional stage. Today, he is out of a job after a coup d'etat and is fighting life in exile.

It was a dramatic fall for the 57-year-old billionaire known as the CEO Prime Minister for his corporate style but also a ban that critics said was observed.

He had no shortage of enemies who claimed he was authoritarian, arrogant and nonsense who involved by paying the rural majority against the country's urban elite.

"He weaved Thailand in a long time ago about this. He especially said that Thaksin and his system would be a condition for a coup," said Yuttiyasai Sarasalin, a spokesperson for the anti-Thaksin protest group People's Alliance for Democracy.

Thaksin, who hails from a family of silk merchants and successful in the United States, rose to power in 2001 on a raft of populist policies as Thailand was recovering from Asia's devastating financial crisis.

He described himself as a new breed of politicians, who could revitalize Thailand by running it like a company.

But even before he took office, Thaksin created controversy.

A week before the 2001 elections, Thaksin was charged with concealing assets in his

THAKSIN: He was warned his confrontational style divided country.

→

(also nominees in state enterprises by transferring shares to relatives, his chauffeur, maid and others.

Questionable ethics

At one point, two of his closest aides were among the top 10 shareholders on Thailand's stock exchange.

Despite his questionable ethics, Thaksin won over voters by accusing the incumbent Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai of failing to properly manage the country's economy and of neglecting the poor.

Thaksin narrowed his core constituency in the countryside, heralding the poor rural majority with virtually free health care, a three-year debt suspension program for farmers and low-interest loans for poor villagers.

But his popularity in the countryside was matched by growing criticism in the cities, where activists and intellectuals portrayed him as an autocrat masquerading as a democrat.

Disregard for human rights

They accused him of disregarding human rights, muffling the press and blurring the lines between his private businesses and politics.

He was also accused of mishandling the worsening Muslim insurgency in southern Thailand, after he imposed a state of emergency that led to eight protests and failed to close the violence.

Thaksin was overwhelmingly endorsed in 2005 to a second term when his Thai Rak Thai (Thais Love Thais) party won 377 of the 500 seats in the House of Representatives.

His main defense against critics since then has been that he enjoys a mandate endorsed by 19 million voters.

But that didn't stop protesters from launching a campaign to oust Thaksin.

Evading taxes

What started as a quirky protest caught fire in January after Thaksin sold the family's controlling stake in Shin Corp. parent's state investment company Temasek Holdings, for 73.3 billion baht ($1.9 billion). No tax was paid on the sale.

Critics say the Shin deal involved insider trading and tax dodges and complained that national assets—including communications satellites—were sold to a foreign government.

Anger over the sale helped the anti-Thaksin movement coalesce—lawyers, students and business leaders, prompting street rallies that became mightily pressure and at times drew over 100,000 people who demanded his resignation.

Thaksin dissolved Parliament as February and called snap elections to defuse the protests. But opposition parties boycotted the polls.

Because a minimum vote was not met in some constituencies, the Parliament could not be convened. The vote was later ruled invalid by the courts.

Like a child

Thaksin initially said he wanted stay down to ease the crisis but in recent weeks has been acting and talking like a politician on the comeback trail.

Just days ago in New York, Thaksin seemed unaware of the events unfolding back home. He made light of the ongoing political crisis, comparing Thailand to a "child learning to walk."

"I, for one, haven't seen a child learning to walk without bumping his bottom constantly," he said a crowd in New York. "As adults, we must learn to live with the pain and the pangs of democracy lest we throw out the baby with the bathwater." AP

King holds key

Army chief recently called military coup in Thailand a 'thing of past'

BANGKOK—THAI ARMY COMmander in Chief Gen. Sondhi Boonyaratkalin said only this year that military coups were "a thing of the past" and that political problems should be solved by politicians.

But on Wednesday, after ousting Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, Sondhi said the overthrow was needed to end Thailand's long-running political conflict and heal growing divisions in society.

Thaksin's government elevated Sondhi to the country's top military job last year, hoping he might help douse a bloody Islamic insurgency in the south because of his religious and military background.

Sondhi, 59, the son of a military and tennis star, was the first Muslim to command the Army in Buddhist-dominated Thailand, in contrast with Thaksin, he advocated a peaceful approach to the separatist insurgency, recently calling for negotiations with the rebels rather than military confrontation.

Thaksin's iron-fist policy in the mostly Muslim provinces of the deep south had failed to halt the violence, in which more than 1,700 have died since early 2004 in almost daily shootings, bombings and beheadings.

Sondhi was seen as bringing unique qualities to his job. At a former head of the special warfare command, he was considered especially suited to deal with counter-insurgency problems. That he served with Thai forces in the Vietnam War gave him added credibility.

"I will make the Royal Thai Army into the army of the people, and will make soldiers the beloved soldiers of the people," Sondhi said upon his appointment. "We already have more than enough soldiers in the troubled regions, but we need capable results-from them."

While insisting that Thaksin demonstrations ended this year threatened to erupt into violence, Sondhi kept his distance and quashed coup rumors.

"Military troops are a thing of the past," he said, echoing comments from other top officers of fears. "Political troubles should be resolved by politicians."

As recently as last week, amid growing tensions in the wake of an alleged assassination plot against Thaksin, Sondhi denied any coup was in the works.

CDNP Nicodemus U. Gen. Sondhi Boonyaratkalin is the first Muslim to head the Buddhist nation's army and is known to be close the country's reverend king. Sondhi, 59, a close friend certified veteran, had publicly stacked until Thaksin new security policy in the run-up to the Sept. 19 military takeover in Bangkok.

→

"Has the situation gone to that point? No. There is still a way to go by democratic means," he said. "We should stop talking about it. It is impossible."

It's still unclear exactly what triggered Sondhi's move on Wednesday.

After the coup on Wednesday, Sondhi said Thaksin's overthrow was needed "in order to resolve the conflict and bring back normalcy and harmony among people."

"We would like to reaffirm that we don't have any intention to rule the country and will return power to the Thai people as soon as possible," he said, flanked by the three Armed Forces chiefs and the head of the national police force.

Sondhi's thought to be close to the reverend King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who has expressed unhappiness with Thaksin's governance.

"The situation in the country is a cause of great suffering for (the) King," Sondhi said in May. "If there is anything I and the army can do for the country, I am ready to do it because I am a soldier under the king." AP

THAI KING: Bhumibol Adulyadej more than any living monarch, ... portrait of often turbulent chan... monarch the nation's revered k... coup Tuesday against Prime Mi...

SOLDIERS on a tank guard the avenue leading to the Government House and the King's residence (Chitralada Palace) in Dusit, Bangkok.

Thailand at a Glance

- **Capital** Bangkok
- **Government** Constitutional Monarchy
- **Chief of State** His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej (also the Head of the Armed Forces, Upholder of the Buddhist religion and Upholder of all religions)
- **Head of government** Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra
- **Location** In Southeast Asia, bordering Laos and Cambodia to the east, the Gulf of Thailand and Malaysia to the south, and the Andaman Sea and Myanmar to the west.
- **Land Area** 510,000 sq. km; ● **Population** 61.4 million
- **Religion** 94.6% Buddhist ; 4.6% Muslim ; 0.7% Christian ; others 0.1% (2000 census)
- **Literacy rate** 92.6% ; ● **GDP** (growth) rate 4.6%
- **Natural resources** tin, rubber, natural gas, tungsten, tantalum, timber, lead, fish, gypsum, lignite, fluorite, arable land
- **Industries** Tourism, textiles and garments, agricultural processing, beverages, tobacco, cement, light manufacturing (jewelry, electric appliances and components), computers and parts, integrated circuits, furniture, plastics, automobiles and automotive parts, tungsten and its products
- **Recent political crisis** Massive rallies calling for Thaksin to resign came after the report last January that then-of him relatives did not pay $2 billion in state gains worth of taxes after they sold their 1.4% Shin to Singapore's Temasek Holdings in a controversial tax-free deal. Shin Corp. is one of the owners of the state-owned Thaicom.

To appease his critics, snap elections are held but boycotted by the opposition. After meeting with the King, he agreed to step down as prime minister (but remains caretaker) and handed the power to Deputy PM Chitchai Wannasathit as Somtes Jeter. Thaksin took back the reins of power. The King appointed that elections be held on Oct. 15. In July, the Thai army chief's decision to reassign officers perceived to be pro-Thaksin, adds fuel to coup rumors.

- **Coups** Following a bloodless revolution that led to a constitutional monarchy in 1932, Thailand has undergone periods of both democracy and military rule. The country had at least 17 coups with the last successful one occurring in 1991.

Sources: CIA World Factbook, official website of Thailand's National Assembly of the Thai Embassy in Washington DC, Book of Thailand 2007. Compiled by: Angelo Gonzaga

A THAI soldier atop a tank displays flowers given by a well-wisher near Government House in Bangkok, Thailand, Wednesday.

SOLDIERS and tanks blocked off S Ayutthaya Road in Dusit, Bangkok, Wednesday.

AT NIGHT, a soldier guards a woman offering roses as a roadblock outside the heavily guarded government office in Bangkok, Wednesday following a military coup. Thailand's new military rulers tightened their grip after an overnight coup, imposing strict controls on the media and banning public gatherings in what they said was a bid to restore order.

to solving crisis

...ng. The 78-year-old monarch has reigned for 60 years, ...and has helped to keep the nation unified through ...s. Thailand's army chief Gen. Sonthi Boonyaratkalin ...ing immediately after declaring that he had staged a ...inister Thaksin Shinawatra. AFP

...brance and Europe for most of his youth, hoping to protect them from the political upheaval at home that saw the Kingdom of Siam transformed into a constitutional monarchy called Thailand.

When his elder brother died on the throne of a gunshot wound to the head in circumstances never fully explained, however, Bhumibol was proclaimed king on the same day—June 9, 1946.

Bhumibol, however, went to Switzerland to study and was not formally crowned until May 1950, when he received the official royal name Rama the Ninth. His full name means "Strength of the Land—Incomparable Power."

His picture hangs in every taxi, office and shop. Before every film, audiences stand in cinemas to pay him homage while pictures of him flash across the screen.

People stop to pay respect to the king—even on subway platforms during rush hour—when the national anthem is played twice a day on radio and television.

Despite carving out a position of stability in politics, the king has occasionally intervened to spectacular effect to end domestic upheaval.

Obedience to king

In 1973, after tens broke out at a Bangkok university, King Bhumibol asked a prime minister and his henchmen to leave the country in a bid to halt a many years' period of bloodshed. They obeyed.

In 1992, he called Prime Minister Gen. Suchinda Kraprayoon to his palace and humiliated him on television for ordering a bloody military crackdown on democratization against his government. The prime minister resigned.

Most recently, on April 25, the king publicly reengaged Supreme Court judges and ordered them to break a political deadlock caused by months of street protests and inconclusive elections.

The Supreme Court judges nullified the elections and ordered new polls.

King Bhumibol has also won the hearts of the Thai people with his persistent advocacy for the austere Buddhist values of self-sufficiency and moderation in the face of a rapidly growing consumer culture. AFP

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POWER from the WEST
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
OPINION
Vol. 23 No. 287

Democracy defeated

EDITORIAL

THE RUMORS HAD BEEN SWIRLING AROUND Bangkok for weeks. And they proved to be true. Late Tuesday night, the Thai armed forces surrounded government offices, and the head of the army, Gen. Sonthi Boonyaratglin, outlawed the powers of the prime minister, imposed martial law and revoked the constitution. For Filipinos who have been suffering on their martial law past, the news filtering out of Bangkok seemed eerily familiar: radio and TV off the air, then broadcasting propaganda; scenes of officials, tanks and soldiers rumbling through the streets.

For the 17th time since Thai officers stripped the monarchy of its powers in 1932, the military has taken political matters into its own hands. In 71 years, the Thai military has ruled the country for almost 46 years.

Talk of another coup started in 2002, not because of politics but due to disagreement between the civilian leadership and the military over the handling of border security concerns. Those concerns haven't gone away. And it may be that the real concern of the Thai military isn't honest governance, but rather, frustration over how civilians handle security matters.

Thaksin Shinawatra, who was named as prime minister, had been under siege politically since April. There were allegations of corruption in his cabinet, and further allegations of his having engaged in a kind of insider trading. There was ethnic violence in the south of Thailand, and the middle class was outraged by Thaksin's attempts to weaken independent institutions. Something had to give, and what gave out was democracy.

Thaksin at least tentatively grasped at retaining a semblance. While he got the votes, an opposition boycott and then a series of other damaging allegations concerning the manner in which authorities handled the election, derailed his legitimacy. He promised to relinquish power, but then held on to it. The Thai electoral authority was gagged of partisan members. The country was poised to resolve the question of leadership in another general election.

At the time, Thaksin was given credit for at least having the confidence in the electorate to return him and his party to power; and the opposition had at least managed a temporary, tactical, unconvincing, yes, that a significant portion of Thai society was prepared to resist the authoritarian instincts of Thaksin. The King of Thailand was praised for and sought for intervening to defuse political tensions and, one by one, they came away to pave the way for elections and hence elections.

A major opposition rally was scheduled in Bangkok this weekend. The coup has closed that option. Thaksin and his civilian critics are now in the same boat. And no more than our observers last asked, for the democracy-oriented protesters that made history in Bangkok, the question is: Thaksin is gone, but is this what anyone wanted?

It may not be what most of Thaksin's critics desired, but it was a situation that was always waiting in the wings to unfold and grab the limelight. Thaksin played coy at a time when the king had already spoken out, but Thaksin viewed it as a temporary setback. On the day of the coup, he was still pondering whether or not he'd run for office in his constituency or settle for being a member of the party list. The Thai military might have taken that as a signal that the coming elections would resolve nothing, and prolong the political crisis.

But now the soldiers have created a new one. They promise fresh elections in which Thaksin can run. Still, the happiness have clashed to ribbons a decade of at times chaotic and frustrating democratic developments. That land is back to square one.

For Filipinos, the saying that comes to mind is, "There, but for the grace of God, go we." The country came close to such a pass last February, brought there in large part by similar frustrations over the national leadership and its successive ambuscade on public institutions, including the armed forces. But our armed forces lack the solidarity and discipline—and a history of success—that their Thai counterparts have.

As the Thai officers have proven, though, extreme measures can only be stop-gap. Revolution are still the ultimate goal, because they remain the tried and tested way to confer legitimacy and maintain stability. At close call, last February should not delude civilian politicians here or home that they can pursue plans to cull off next year's elections. It could be as fatal to our democratic way of life, flawed as it is, as this week's military intervention in Bangkok.

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Enduring lesson

VIEWPOINT

Jesse L. Mercado

ONE THING IS CLEAR ABOUT THAILAND'S still-nascent third coup (first Monday, in Fiji, there will be six, not by the generals, but by the last 19-year-old king Bhumibol Adulyadej). Seven of my loyal parents, King Bhumibol's constituents aren't authority or 3rd fools, which enabled brother Bangkok's traffic, displayed his yellow standard.

Thursday night what had been considered an area because fact. Soldiers seized key offices. Troops appeared at my divide points. But by the first time in a coup here (it rains, the media had their props pulled.

The commander and caretaker parliament were suspended, a military spokesperson said, deny that Gen. Sonthi Boonyaratglin "will assume prime ministerial powers," and give the "Council of Public of Reform" a human face.

Outside the crowds, and there were the flights covered King Bhumibol and "declared loyalty to him." So far the monarch has "made no comment about whether he has to the takeover ultimate," BBC's Kate McGeown reported in Bangkok.

The military would be temporary, said spokesperson Sirra Prapat Thanarangsan yesterday. Prapat would be "returned to the people soon. We ask for the cooperation of the public and ask your pardon for the inconvenience."

Bolstered soldiers engaged in banter with people.

Apparently, today's generals learned from the avoidable confusion that assumed from military journalist in the 1991 coup. I was then a United Nations officer in Thailand. Hard-age of soldiers firing guns scattered members in scrapping on Bangkok's ruined the stomach.

What trapped the bloodshed was the king's decisive intervention. From the Chitrlada Palace, TV showed the unelected prime ministers, first Suchinda Kraprayoon and then Chamlong Srimuang, kneel while the normally public-phobic monarch told them bluntly to stop the bloodshed. They obeyed.

The king also viewed his potent against dissents of Muslim minorities and community expressions. A Muslim separatist war in the south here should note. Three were bombed, too.

IS GMA ANOTHER THAKSIN?

Good question to ask today. the 34th anniversary of martial law, and the year 3000s are bombed 10.17 and other martial law like others. My answer to it is yes and no. But first readers take comfort in that answer, the "no" there is no even greater source of denial.

The yes is patent. GMA is another Thaksin in many respects.

Marcos became an illegitimate ruler after September 1972, ruling without the mandate of the people. GMA became an illegitimate ruler after May 2004, ruling without the mandate of the people. Therefore she (aside to the road, GMA will never be able to escape the ghost of the "Hello Garci" tapes. By fiddle in the House of Representatives does refuse to accept that no evidence to support its lies, but the public will always find in it reason to smell a rat.

Marcos wanted to rule forever. GMA wants to rule forever. Her quite (undeniably Marcos also tried to circumvent the ban against a third presidential term by holding the Constitutional Convention to shift the form of government from presidential to parliamentary). Her plot was foiled by an honest old man named Edmundo Quintero who requested the letter. His legal services closed to him, Marcos took the illegal route of declaring martial law in 1972.

The Chacha prospers, and GMA can rule until 2010 by becoming prime minister. Of course, how do Mancha Banks be will be it, but he has always been horribly deluded. Of course, too, the insurgency revolutionary are GMA recently name the prime minister and not be it, but the last elections she ran 1992 and not GMA won, and she has been it. Indeed, the whole supremacy of GMA's rule suggests she does not mean to give up power ever. The scale of the killings, which comes her up at the very least to legal retribution from her station in the form of a close out not unlike the one the martial law torture victims forged successfully against Marcos and at the she turned to physical urge and, instead of.

Marcos ruled by force, GMA rules by force. Her failure from the but that both were not of resources succumbing post to Thailand's post-with prop-ins and people.

Filipinos like Thibol Sanjakkon sought to condemn his crush. "From his earliest days, [the king] was never content to be the figurehead walking beam for a corrupt power elite," Bright notes. He defined a new role for the monarchy by becoming concerned and to impose on bridge between rich and people.

"It's quite natural has people should see the king," the monarch told BBC in an interview. "But the way of using channels so as also, that not am doing things that are good for the country, and [that] we don't have any secrets."

That is a formula for transparent success as government. It is the root of his influence. "Except in extreme circumstances does the king touch the levers of power today. But when he does, the intervention is decisive," Ainsworth notes.

Thailand's return to its coup-scattered past will be watched in that country with zeal. It is. That is a key country of Asian with ideals the Philippines has long subscribed to.

"The Thai elite cannot continue to rely on the 11th-hour rescues that King Bhumibol has, in the past, provided," Bright asserts. And the king has been ailing.

When he goes, as all mortals must, who steps in? For the current prime minister who currently includes father's moral centers—as declaration. "My son likes his weekends," Queen Sirikit once sorely said in a rare interview.

The Magsaysay Awardee, Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn? She considers the king as her favored service for people.

And this new coup serves as a warning to us here. Democratic governance does not carry irrevocable guarantees. Here is it an incidence for our military to do likewise. History has shown that in Thailand, the Philippines and elsewhere, soldiers' oaths "merely photo the sea."

Only governance that cares about self—and is transparent—is what matters in the long run. Filipinos will be grateful to King Bhumibol for the enduring lesson of his life.

E-mail: jmercado@pcij.org

Then and now

THERE'S THE RUB

Gonzalo de Quiroz

The first to that Marcos was elected presidential candidate before he contemplated declaration, GMA was never elected before she contemplated dictatorship. Term is no mean difference; its implications are enormous. Let we forget (though many of us have already done so), IMA came to power on the wings of people power. The barangays in her case is misleading. Her chumbleyes of a cause that medical dictatorship to be the vote to demand that brought it back—it is unpardonable. Indeed, for a boundaries of people power to be the property of the cynicism of the cynicism of our system of people power—it is obscenity itself.

The granted implication of that is simply that if someone has the gall to do it, when cry the possibly 'left' of Marcos' natural, financial from winning a couple of presidential elections, even winning to get around the law, which he did at every turn. While instants, developed from harvesting the very thing that brought her to power, are to waste. He has allegedly, which the does not worry men. Between the two, GMA is the one less likely to be deterred by rules and constraints, human or divine.

The second difference, and one thing we really ought to be scared about, is that then the populace hated Marcos but was deterred from taking to the streets in vast hate by the hopeless of martial law. Today, the populace hates GMA but is deterred from rising to the streets by the paralyzing effects of indifference, political fatigue, cynicism and despair—call it what you will. Then the people were more than they are now. Then the people were more than they are of the bayonets and was together in a region, about set of one's name or John. Will the people really call the ouph the hushed were strong around their bones to do the same?

Abrogating seemed to kobenzls.

P-Boy. Today is the kickoff gig for the "Stop the Killings!" bar tour at 7th Bistro, six minutes, shadow City Beach parking. The Down, The Jerks, Kindbuck, Impatient, Brownouts Rewind and Radioactive Sago. I'll announce the rest of the schedule over the coming weeks.

Upgrading Filipino standards in Hawaii

HAWAII, THE 50TH STATE OF THE UNITED States, is very accessible to the Philippines using any Philippine Airlines flying direct to Honolulu from Manila and back three times a week. But 100 years ago, 75 Filipinos from Ilocos, more or less, who were recruited to work on Hawaii's sugar plantations, not only missed the U.S. Dollar to Philippine Peso exchange, Ilocos Sur, on a trip that took weeks. The Honolulu community's "historian," Dr. Belinda "Lindy" Aquino, wrote in her chronicles that the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association extolled the Ilocanos because of their famous traits of frugality, industry, thrift, honesty, patience and dependability"—traits that make "ideal workers for the plantations." Over the next 100 years, Filipino workers came to replace the Japanese, Chinese, and other ethnic workers in the plantations—and began the great Filipino Diaspora. But among the Filipino migrants to Hawaii, as Lindy herself, an Ilocana from San Fernando, La Union, noted, the descent of the plantation continued to dominate the mindset of the first 50 generations of the Filipino population and of Ilocano descent.

* * *

In the unveiling of the salt-rule statute at the Filipino Community Center, Honolulu, during the regime of the one-grading Statehood Party, Boston Sen. Rep. Eric Simpson told me and Cecile Heinrich Hartwell an Ilocana, since her mother is from Vigan, I once ran AIDS program, that the assimilation of the first subjects greatly improved on the excellence of their forebears. He said Easterners but since progressed, due not to small measure to those travellers. Born in Ilo Ilo, Luis "Chris" Taruc, the Filipino Communist Party's commander-in-chief, pointed out that Salonguan Peer will be rehabilitated with Chinese funding and send mainly to shipping agricultural products from the Ilocos to South and East Asia.

* * *

Progress in the region that produced the waves of Ilocanos called a century, and as President Macapagal Arroyo stated during her inauguration, was the purpose of their deployment in Hawaii. DSA said that process day Ilocanos Filipinos, like those in the US mainland, upon standards of living, education and work performance higher than those of many other Filipinos. But after the election of President George Bush, in congressional hearings on the occasion of the centenary of the Filipino workers' arrival in Hawaii, it stood now Filipinos have helped make America a strong nation with their talent and industry.

Even a cursory look would affirm the conclusion about the vast improvements in the lives of the subjects' descendants. This is most notable in Ilocos migrants' professionals and politicians. But it also cannot be denied that there's much room for improvement in the quality of jobs held by persons day Filipinos, who continue to arrive in Hawaii at the rate of 5,000 a year in search of a better future. Dr. Dean Itsukaichi and Dr. Dennis Ahanes, professors of Filipino literature and language at the University of Hawaii's department of Literature and Asian-Pacific languages, noted in an interview that because most Filipinos that the terms of which labor in Hawaiian plantations in the first half of the 20th century they have just translated into the second half to "low-[unintelligible]." In learning the new language, it was found that 75 percent of workers perceived in hotels, working as waiters and chambermaids, are of Filipino ancestry, while others work as nurses, airport baggage handlers and supervisors in hog farms.

* * *

Ramos said that when she started working at the University of Hawaii, Filipino descendants comprised only a tiny percentage of the student population. Now, thanks largely to the efforts of leading Filipino-Americans who were able to obtain federal scholarships for their countrymen, more Filipino students are enjoying equal opportunity to community colleges under the UH system.

Assistant State Rep. Cindy Oshima, a native of Ilocano Secretary Avelino Cruz who resides in Honolulu and runs a successful bookselling business with her husband, Senior Corps volunteer Richard Yoza, pointed out that Filipinos now comprise about 20 percent of Leeward Community College's population. But compared to the other Asian groups, that number is still very small. Many Filipino students, she added, are reluctant to a Filipino culture: families place so much emphasis on getting a job and acquiring a house, a car and other material trappings of success, many of the working Senior education—and is aiming. By contrast, she said, other Asian parents indulge their children about their studies and to focus their material longings. The Filipino parents' attitude, Shimabukuro and Ramos observed, may be due to the poverty they experienced back in the Philippines and the miserable utterances of its educational system.

* * *

But things are beginning to look up. Rose Ocampo noted that more Filipinos now occupy jobs in the traditional civil service which were once held by Japanese. With better training and education, it is hoped, this trend would be fewer Filipinos in the jobs of the lowest rungs and more in the higher-tattoo jobs in Honolulu's business.

There's a commendable if uproarious interest, the 10-th Kapiolani Community College and the University of Hawaii-Manoa campus, in Filipino during the rule of a top-level Hawaiian group, led by Gov. Linda Lingle, last January. The bill seeks to accelerate the training of Filipino nurses for its new employment in Hawaii, where there's a great demand for nurses. More Filipino nurses are projected in the Island. The bill also provides for an exchange of faculty and students between Hawaiian and nursing institutions in the Philippines. All these should help improve the quality of Filipinos in Hawaii.

(Ilocos. The names are not)

Political Tidbits

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

The Pope's language

A MASTER SCIENTIST ONCE SAID THAT THE BEAUTY of the proof of 4[illegible] Goldbach, it likely to say in his fellow scientists, "The brain exhibited a 1.00 percent normality response."

My journalism would, to be, "All the fish died." It is valuable, to its simplicity and you couldn't get more dramatic than that.

Senior Lee Kuangyao says that his favorite line among famous lawyer's stories is from the story "Pacifist." The sentence: "She was tired." As that story, Kuangyao says, "you don't need to read the lawyer's mind; in those three words do.

"Simplicity of language," Kuangyao says, "is not only valuable, but perhaps most ancient. The Gettysburg Address of Abraham Lincoln, the Gettysburg address of a lively 14-year old: 'In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.'"

The subject of simplicity in language—and in narrations—was going through my mind since I read the text of the Pope Benedict XVI's speech that he delivered at the University of Regensburg in Germany last week. It was not a papal "come city and to the world" (Urbi et Orbi) speech, by the way. It was a lecture to a select group of intellectuals in an academic compound.

It interests in that lecture has so informed Muslims who felt that Islam was dominated. The sentence that riles the Pope's interwoven. The Pope quoted Manuel II Paleologus, the Byzantine Emperor, who battled the Prophet Muhammad's step of spreading the faith. "I do not wish to repeat that sentence here [...] The Pope thought the emperor said in a brusque, surprising way, the reason for violence in a religion spread by the sword was unreasonable, contrary to God's nature. By quoting that statement, the Pope wanted to merely illustrate a point. He did not say he agreed or disagreed with it.

Well, the Pope should have made himself clear in the first place, because those were the three-line sentence that the offending sentence's intent was not something she-bot.

The Pope's lecture that I read (text since the beginning of this sentence) was not easy. It was an English translation from German and the subject was philosophy and more.

The Pope has said in two-story his words (the quote he used) caused offense, something he did not intend. He did not say he was sorry that he used the quote. If the Pope was deliberately using the quotes in proving something by using that offending quote, then he would not be sorry. He was merely using the words like this reporter.

Many statements and excerpts of global significance have come from the pages of recent papal encyclicals. Pope John Paul II's social teachings crafted in the individual papers stone but were the handiwork of theologians and experts from various fields. Audio with the latest speeches and homilies they deliver during their papal visits.

But the Pope's lecture in Regensburg [illegible] like his controversial 2004 "Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Collaboration of Men and Women in the Church and the World" where he wrote that Pope Gregory the Great seemed like he wished it to his favorite. A letter not in the lecturer's case, something straight out of the document's mind.

The Vatican watchers calls this piece "lectern of the Holy Father" and has the title "Faith, Reason and the University: Memories and Reflections."

The Pope began and reminisced on only he said: "It is a moving experience for me to be back again in my professorial city after many years. I gave my last lecture at this podium. I think back in those years some, after a pleasant period at the Freisinger Hochschule, I began teaching at the University of Bonn. That was in 1959, in the days of the old university-model and ordinary professors—a model of lively exchange with incentives, philosophers, philologists and, naturally, however the two theological faculties. Once a semester there was a solemn act, when professors from every faculty appeared before the students of the entire university, making a genuine experience of universitas."

"The university was also very proud of its two theological faculties [...] It was even expected that a professor of religion should be a believer [unintelligible] about his university. It had two faculties devoted to something that did not exist: God."

Well, after those sweet reminiscences, the Pope delved into the history, the time, the culture of Islam and Christianity, the Koran and the Bible, and she then call between Byzantine II Paleologus and his educated Persian interlocutor. It was here that that offending statement by the Byzantine emperor was offered.

One more paragraph on God's nature according to Islam and Greek philosophy and then the Pope argued into God's inexplicables and dialectics, the "incompatibility of God's nature with that of reason and religion as separate entities today.

Then the theme of Pope Benedict XVI's language.

"It cannot which a God to the divine and which irrigate religion into the realm of unreasonableness, in the end, his own nature."

"For philosophy and, albeit in a different way for theology, listening to the great experiences and insights of the religious traditions of humanity and those of the Christian faith in particular, and their reflection on God's image, is a source of knowledge, and to ignore it would be an unacceptable narrowness of our listening and responding."

This offending quote in the early part did not arise many accolades. It was put down for a moment. But as the end of the long lecture about a subject that was above ordinary mortals, Dean spoke more simply, the Pope again took up the debate between the Byzantine Emperor and his Persian interlocutor. Once more, he stressed reason as the basis for a great dialogue, not debate of cultures.

Gone, for its part, are would have become bewildered, befuddled and lost in that strong language that would not cohort know or didn't know what offended you.

* * *

(Send feedback to ceinopil@info.com.ph)

Human Face

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

Remember the 23rd of September

THE OTHER DAY, MY "DISCIPLE" ON "THE DISciples" was a young student leader from De La Salle University. He's been giving his views high about Senate hearings on the Oakwood mutiny. Since he's only 18, I asked him how much of his thinking was his own, and how much was influenced by his teachers. He said that his grandfather and high school history teacher were about the only ones who talked to him about politics. Other than that, he said, he was on his own in college more different. He spoke highly of a history professor who, he said, was remembered in that he simply provided the facts, and then allowed his students to draw their own conclusions.

What the young student believes he said clearly and simply enough when he appeared on *Arts*, on Senate against death anniversary he argued that as far as he was concerned, there was no difference between Marcos and his cronies. Nicky Aquino but, as he himself told me, on the whole, Marcos at least did a lot for the country. "He built the most infrastructure," he said. He suggested that as long as a president builds roads and bridges and creates jobs and provides health services, that is enough to make him great—as he seems to think Marcos is compared was. And besides, who says history has to stay static?

Well, apparently, history is constant and over what the young student felt, and watched our for some sort of dialogue to help convince him of the error of his ways. "My friends were not wrong," he said on hearing that, he said. "After all, she is a Cojuangco."

This, perhaps, was the most surprising statement of all. That his parents wouldn't see beyond his Aquino's family affiliations, or even consider that our representative's opposing more important than what seems to be their view of the Cojuangco as being rather struggle. That the student considers me biased infrastructure as the reasons why I am against the Marcos burial and apparently felt he owes reward him, could overcome them and become a hero for a generation of Filipinos, becomes more understandable to that light.

My guess during the interview period of the

The Long View

Manuel L. Quezon III

three was Oscar Lagman, professor and economist, activist and veteran of the anti-Marcos effort. He pointed out how America backed the conventional wisdom that martial law would be supported by people, we don't agree. Interestingly, I thought he settled the premise the course and unconcerned with through each best-informed support, whether out of nationalism, or fatalistic acceptance, of martial law as a necessary evil.

Time, he said, after backing up his premature statement, and getting even with his prominent business foes, Marcos kept going after people particularly students. Abductions and disappearances kept taking place.

Second, after business basically tanked martial law, and the regime, with its cough policy policies, was able to limit it to five years of economic growth. Then, after that, well things began to be gobbled up by Marcos and his cronies.

Third, as the first two factors eroded public confidence and left the country trembling on the verge of economic collapse, Ninoy was killed.

None of these arguments I made, influenced the student's thinking in any way from what I could observe. This isn't to say he's oblivious—he is, after all, versed in current events—but, in principle, he's just living and breathing in a post-martial law completely beyond the pale. He is not a martial-law youth, though I do think the absence of a strong feeling of outrage over what he's learned now and his view that everything is relative—Marcos, Ninoy, Cory, simply political figures—and thus all things being equal, [illegible] Dulo is unique, all other—are representative of his generation.

It is inevitable, of course, that those born to freedom, and raised only experiencing freedom and the way it tends to be abused, culture confidential, tends to be unconcerned with those who fret being deprived of it since to enough.

The student's views should provide us opportunities for sober and critical reflection by the De La Salle brothers whom I hold in the highest esteem, beginning with Brother Andrew Gonzalez, Lasallians and the provincial, Bro. Dante Bernardo, who are sincere partisans and willing to take [illegible] in a discussion more in keeping with its John Baptist de La Salle's dictum that "zeal is the virtue of the mediocre, upper-class-identity of La Salle in the Philippines a stolen spirit from the term among Christian Brothers schools. Poor Brother Andrew has embraced the 21st century but his history as a Christian Brother is still in the field of orthodox, and highly dangerous, ruin-ism.

I happen to think that if an honest and objective discussion takes place in our really provided, students may, using more or less the same facts—could be as unsure who argue that Marcos and Ninoy weren't very different and that, in the end, infrastructure just blotted over history. If that were so, Indians would still be paying for the Suez Canal when none of us have ever seen it, and Americans would still be paying for the Statue of Liberty. Well [illegible] Germany should continue to proudly bear the swastika. It is no coincidence that a replacement for a kind of totem during the Marcos era, was taken from the Bonifacio Bridge, Rizalista's monument gets taken for Bonifacio.

But here we wonder what kind of lines were presented that leave students blind and indifferent to the implications of political memories, and to the [illegible] of the past. Is it because they were [illegible] of those who were drowned in the Sen. Ninoy's pile. But then, as Lagman eloquently pointed out, even Marcos' victims may feel lineage is their day remembrance of the 23rd of September, 21 days or later took place on Sept. 23. Marcos chose a fiction date, because of numerology, and eventually, to commemorate his accession for the Martial-Law mantle on Sept. 21, 1939.

Young Blood

Robert Anthony L. Ramos

Raised in freedom

IT WAS HERMAN ONE OF THE HORRIEST DREAMS I'VE ever had. The first routine news of armed men mobbing into my house while I slept. The news scenes happened in a large complex that looked like a school and mall. In my dream, once, my mother (what I dream is now that looks like—her Ateneo, and another that looks like a mall). An layout had an uncanny resemblance to Ateneo building, although it seemed to be located somewhere in Quezon City.

More than the locations, what took until me, were after waking up, was the palpable sense of dread I was aware of the situation it was to—that of a devastating, or at least a disastrous one-

They Said

Horror show

"We can only watch in horror how the oil spill can settle in a few days to centuries which how nature decides to implement."

—Antonio Oposa, *El Mallorca Diario*, speaking at a meeting of Philippine agencies tasked to organize the oil spill in the province

Lost and found

"The scoreboard said I lost today, but what the scoreboard doesn't say is what I've found. Over the last 21 years, I've found history."

—Gabriela Spanic, in her victory lap at the last season

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Nicole case: 'procedure' suggested by prosecutor has no basis in law

EXCEPT FOR PLEA BARGAINING, CRIMinal liability cannot be compromised. Meaning, no compromise agreement (involving the criminal aspect of a case) may be entered into by the private offended party and the government with the accused. Only the civil aspect of the crime may be compromised. Hence, the settlement of the civil aspect does not extinguish the criminal liability of the accused. This is a bloodbath axiom in law.

The oft-bemoaned "blotak" and her mother with Senior Deputy Prosecutor Emilio Jo Ito Santos revolver around this legal principle. Imo-eminently competent today Jo Ito Santos should remember to ever "explain" to Nicole's mother the "procedure" on how a criminal liability may be compromised when this is not at all possible.

Jo Ito Santos ingenuously denies having proposed a settlement of the rape case to Nicole's mother. She claims that she only explained the "procedure" because Nicole's mother inquired about the effects of a possible settlement. Jo Ito Santos said, "If they wanted to negotiate then they have to put it in writing ...and Nicole has to take the witness stand again to say she's desisting. What's wrong with that?" (PDI, 8/13/06)

As a bar practitioner, I believe there is something wrong with the procedure suggested by Jo Ito Santos—i.e., if the offended party wants to negotiate a settlement let's not advise my offended party-client, especially in a rape case, to submit a written offer to negotiate a settlement. What if the accused refuses to accept the written offer to negotiate a settlement? He increased may use the written offer as a damaging evidence against the veracity of the testimonies, the statements or promises, not to mention its value in showing the monetary motives of the offended party. The written offer to negotiate may totally demolish the prosecution's case.

Frankly, this is the first time I have heard of such a procedure which I cannot find in the Revised Rules on Criminal Procedure, or in any other pertinent precedents, rulings or jurisprudence.

—REYU C. RIOS
Rios & Associates Lawyers,
Legaspi Village, Makati City

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Name of Project	Approved Budget	Source of Funding
LOT 1		
Main Office Supplies (3rd Quarter 2006)	P2,000,000.00	General Appropriations Act - CY 2006
LOT 2		
Paper Supplies (3rd Quarter 2006)	P 2,700,000.00	General Appropriations Act - CY 2006
LOT 3		
Printing Supplies (3rd Semester 2006)	P 1,677,790.00	General Appropriations Act - CY 2006
LOT 4		
(1) ... units Xerox Executive Color Printers (2) ... units Laser Executive Color Printers (30) ... units Laser Executive Printers (41) ... units Heavy Duty Shredders	P 1,000,000.00	Judiciary Development Fund
LOT 5		
(1) ... units Filing Cabinet (2) ... units Time Recorders (2) ... units Safe Box Cabinets	P 2,727,209.00	Judiciary Development Fund

PERIOD OF DELIVERY:
Thirty (30) calendar days after issuance of Purchase Order.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

1. **PRE-BID CONFERENCE**
   The Pre-Bid conference will be held on the following schedule:

Project	Date and Time	Venue
Lot 1 to 3	October 11, 2006, Thursday, 1:30 p.m.	Session 1, 2nd Floor, Building, Taft Ave., Ma.
Lot 4	October 11, 2006, Wednesday, 1:30 p.m.	Session 1, 2nd Floor, Building, Taft Ave., Ma.
Lot 5	November 6, 2006, Wednesday, 1:30 p.m.	Session 1, 2nd Floor, Building, Taft Ave., Ma.

2. **SUBMISSION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND OPENING OF BIDS**
   The eligibility requirements and bids must be duly submitted by the duly authorized representatives, on the date and at the venues indicated, in the sealed envelopes duly marked and labeled as follows, to be held on the following schedule:

Project	Date and Time	Venue
Lot 1 to 3	October 18, 2006, Thursday, 1:30 p.m.	Session 1, 2nd Floor, Building, Taft Ave., Ma.
Lot 4	October 18, 2006, Wednesday, 1:30 p.m.	Session 1, 2nd Floor, Building, Taft Ave., Ma.
Lot 5	November 13, 2006, Wednesday, 1:30 p.m.	Session 1, 2nd Floor, Building, Taft Ave., Ma.

Prospective bidders must not be related to the Head of the procuring entity or any member of the Committee on Bids or the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, up to the third civil degree.

Interested bidders may obtain complete eligibility requirements and other pertinent data from the **Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Property Division, 2nd Floor Annex Building, Supreme Court**, after payment of a non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)** for Lot 1, Lot 2 and Lot 3, or of **One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00)** for Lot 4 and Lot 5, and is then duly issued an official receipt. Bids must be submitted on the date and time indicated, to the **Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Property Division, 2nd Floor Annex Building, Supreme Court**. Late submission or non-submission of bids will be disqualified. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to be present.

The Committee on Bids reserves the right to: 1) reject any or all bids; 2) waive any defects or informalities therein; 3) re-advertise; 4) postpone the award or reject all bids upon advice of the Chief Justice, without incurring any liability, and without assigning any reason therefor.

December 12, 2006

(Sgd.) **JOSE P. PEREZ**
Chairman

Rising criminality in Las Piñas

I HAVE BEEN A RESIDENT OF LAS PIÑAS for the past 20 years. I have lived here all my life and so have most of my brothers and sisters. We have lived and grown with this city and I am proud to say that I am from Las Piñas. However, in the past few years, I and most of my neighbors have noted the alarming rise in the crime rate in our area.

At Jaz la Road alone, all 11 homes have been robbed or broken into for the past three years, one house has been robbed four times. Several businesses in the immediate area have been robbed as well. This rise in criminality is very disappointing especially considering that these days our appear to be any response or steps taken by our local government to address the problem.

How many more homes and businesses will have to suffer before it sees on this problem? What lives be lost before one to realize that we troubled into doing something? What's the use of clean roads, sidewalks, street lighting and landscaping if therefore are still no residents no longer feel safe in their own homes and have no faith in their police force?

Residents now feel it's necessary to just take matters into their own hands by investing in additional security. Businesses are having to hire more and more security guards instead of spend money on building higher walls around their homes. Is this the type of normality our local government wishes to foster? If so, what purpose does the local police presence serve? In fact, there is very little police presence in the area.

I urge request our local officials to take quick and decisive action to remedy the problem.

—JULIUS CASTAÑARES,
9 Earthbound,
Sharon (Zuzuca Avenue,
Talon 5, Las Piñas City

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
PCA Building, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 929-65-87 / 929-65-14
Fax Nos. 920-00-10

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) hereby invites interested contractors duly registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board as listed "Medium to Hi Water Treatment Plant and System or Sewerage and Sewage Treatment Plant and System" under Group "F" Category "Large" and "Medium" to participate in the **Construction of Multi-Species Hatchery** to be held at Brgy. Lalo sito, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, to be funded from a subsidy under the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-Ulitan Fisheries and then the Department of Agriculture-Fisheries Mindanao Development Assistance Project (DA-MINDAP).

The scope of work of the project includes the following:

A. Site Development and Utilities Works
   (Site preparation, perimeter fence and gates, drainage works outside water distribution system, outside electrical distribution system)
B. Building and Facilities
   (Concrete reservoir and sand filter box, concrete broodstock tanks, staff house including elevated water tank, office/laboratory building including shelters for broodstock screening tanks, larva rearing tanks, shelters tanks, natural food tanks, collection box and shelters tanks)

The Approved Budget for the Contract is PHP 150,000.00 – PHP 200,000.00 – PHP

Eligibility/Prequalification documents are available for issuance at the BFAR Property Section at the above address from **October 2- 20, 2006**, only upon submission of a Letter of Intent, presentation of the original or authenticated copies of contractor's license and payment of a non-refundable fee of **P500**.

One (1) original and two (2) photocopies of duly accomplished eligibility statements must be submitted to the BFAR Property Section not later than **October 19, 2006**.

Tender documents shall be issued to eligible contractors starting **November 2, 2006** only upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P5,000.00 per set.

Pre-Bid Conference: **November 10, 2006 @ 2:00 P.M.**

Bids must be submitted at the BFAR address from 12:00 noon of **November 24, 2006** and shall be opened at **2:00 P.M.** on the same date in the presence of the participating bidders.

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat @ tel. nos. 426-33-80 or 426-34-30.

The BFAR reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any formalities therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.**
Director

Baseless report?

THE PERSONS TO THE NEWS ITEM "RISE in illegal logging in Cagayan linked to polls," written by Frankie Caligaid, (PDI, 9/11/06).

The sweeping report has no basis at least. It is flawed and very malicious. It is unfair to all Cagayan policemen and political leaders.

Apparently Caligaid only wants to get even with the officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for not refusal to give in to his extortion activities since 2004 and his subscribe to his local newspaper.

The National Capital Region-mandated Crime Task Force (Special) and the 302nd Cavalry operatives have just concluded their investigation. Their initial findings showed there were only 800 cubic meters of undocumented logs confiscated by my office. They will later be moved over to the Bureau of Forestry Development Corporation (BFDC), DENR's marketing arm, for proper disposal. The market value of these logs is just over P2 million.

On Aug. 19, 2006, the first day of the DENR-Special operations, Caligaid came out with a news report that 15,000 pieces of illegally cut logs worth P4.15 million (although no seizing and counting have been done so) had been confiscated.

He believes Caligaid is being used by aggrieve adversely affected by our anti-illegal logging campaign.

—BENJAMIN T. TORALBAN,
regional executive director,
Department of Environment
and Natural Resources,
Region II, Caraga Administrative Region,
Santiago, Bayanan City

The report objected to by Benjamin Toralban was based on an interview with a reliable source. The figures that he questioned were the same figures used by local media outfits here in Metro Manila.

Toralban's accusations against me obviously came after the publication of my reports on illegal logging activities in his area of responsibility. The reports, which obviously did not favor it, paid triggers, belie his allegation that I allowed myself to be used by them.

The report that I have on hand from political, civic and religious leaders in all my years as an Inquirer correspondent is, I believe, my most eloquent defense against his charge that I engage in extortion.

—FRANKLIN CALIGAID,
correspondent,
PDI Mindanao Bureau

Ombudsman's power to discipline illegal?

MAKI CITY MAYOR HERMIE TRIMIÑO, Vice Mayor Antonio Calixto and 10 councilors were ordered suspended for 60 days by the Ombudsman for allegedly awarding contracts on garbage collection and disposal without public bidding. The suspension order was served and enforced by Interior Undersecretary Manuel Mamba and the police led by DILG Assistant Secretary Rico Puno. (PDI, 9/7/06)

The Ombudsman's power to discipline and suspend elective officials is unconstitutional. Under Par (3) Sec. 13 Art. XI of the 1987 Constitution, the office has limited investigatory and recommendatory powers. In the Supreme case of Aug. 31, 2000, Issiarel de Rivia, former spokesperson of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, cited the Supreme Court's Sept. 5, 1997 decision in the Gerzon Ronda vs Ombudsman case, where it ruled: "The powers and functions of the Ombudsman have generally been categorized into the following: investigatory powers, prosecutory power, public assistance function and authority to take disciplinary action and sanctions to adopt, institute and implement preventive measures."

Dr. Nes said, nowhere is it mentioned that the Ombudsman has disciplinary powers. Congress cannot grant additional powers by enacting RA 6770, the Ombudsman Act of 1989, like disciplinary powers, which the Constitution has denied the Ombudsman, Dr. Nes added.

—EUGENIO ANTONIO,
Rosevillle Subdivision,
Concepcion I, Marikina City

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Tejeron and Marconi Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to No. 897-8703, 897-9794, or e-mail reader-sadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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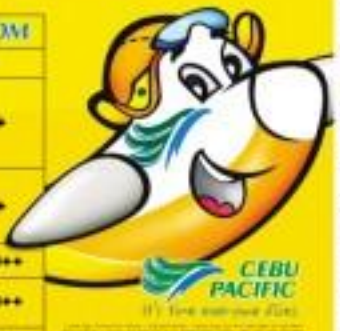

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AFP says it won't be provoked by MILF

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE MILITARY WON'T be provoked by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's war posturing over a deadlock in peace talks following President Macapagal-Arroyo's instructions for it to continue heeding a ceasefire agreement with the guerrilla group.

Armed Forces chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. yesterday said he received orders from Mr. Arroyo, through Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita Jr., to observe the ceasefire agreement that the government entered into with the MILF in 2002.

"The instructions from the President has not changed. The instructions coming from the President is to give primacy to the peace process," Esperon said in a statement.

"The AFP intends to do just that. The AFP will observe all existing regulations. We will observe the ceasefire and the suspension of hostilities," he added.

MILF chief negotiator Mohagher Iqbal on Tuesday announced that the group is prepared to go to war if the peace talks collapsed.

The talks broke down earlier this month on the issue of ancestral domains or territory.

"We are all set to go to war. Because of the deadlock, the situation is clearly said there are settling aside what we have agreed before," Iqbal said, adding that the MILF was still technically at war with the government.

The military said they have not received any alarming word of MILF intrusions into strongholds in Cotabato and Maguindanao.

"There might be some provocations who might take advantage of this difficulty," he added.

Jesus Dureza, Mr. Arroyo's peace adviser, said the President wanted the peace negotiations to move forward.

"As far as the government is concerned and under the instruction of the President, we have to move forward with the peace negotiations. We need it in Mindanao," Dureza said.

Earlier, the MILF warned of a possible collapse of the peace negotiations because of what it views as the government's dilly-dallying tactics.

Murad Ebrahim, MILF chairman, the government now has no ring the peace talks in its anti-insurgency tool and not a means to address the Bangsamoro people's demand for their ancestors.

He said the government has no political will to push hard for a negotiated political settlement of the rebellion when it has the opportunity to starve the guerrillas into submission.

"I won't comment on that because everyone is entitled to his own opinion," Dureza said.

Iqbal said the MILF was ready to return to war if the peace talks failed.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said the guerrilla group is open to holding self-determination referendum in the areas in dispute.

"It's a truth in process within our organization," he said.

Two weeks ago, the peace talks hit a snag after government and rebel negotiators failed to strike a deal on the issue of territory.

The government was offering the MILF at least 600 villages to form part of a future Bangsamoro entity, but the rebel group wanted something more.

"The issue on ancestral domains is not simple. There are land issues to untangle," Dureza said.

But he said the government was optimistic it could still strike a deal with the MILF.

"We are still confident that we can find solutions to some of these issues," he said.

Dureza said government negotiators are back to the drawing board "trying to find out how we can reach a solution to the contentious points in the discussions of ancestral domains."

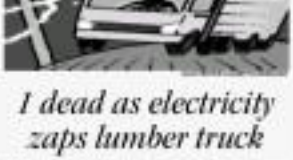
Despite the apparent deadlock on one of the issues in the talks, a Japanese official said the ceasefire in Mindanao.

Noriko Fujita, president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica), said her government believes that peace in Mindanao is important to the overall development of the Philippines.

"As president of Jica, I would like to continue to explore all possible ways to support the efforts for peace and development through dialogue with various stakeholders," she said.

Jica has been helping Mindanao in many ways, including building roads and bridges. *Jeoffrey Maitem and Jerrold Jay Sarcia, Inquirer Mindanao*

WOMEN members of MILF families pose out of a curiosity in Camp Darapanan, the base of the MILF in Maguindanao, to check out visitors who were allowed entry to the camp for a peace conference of guerrilla leaders.



1 dead as electricity zaps lumber truck

DAVAO, BUKIDNON, VISAYAS.—A 14-wheel truck loaded with lumber was zapped with 10,000 volts of electricity, killing the truck driver and wounding another man in the tragic September 11 incident on Monday.

Senior Insp. Joseph dela Cruz, Dadi police chief, said experts indicated that the truck, loaded with about 23,000 board feet of common hardwood species, was owned by Mayor Jose Maximo Cinco of Sugod, Dadiangas.

Delfe Uran said driver Hanie Bangay tried to leave the truck across a power line that sagged in Barangay Bagumbayan at about 1:0 p.m., making the vehicle to fell and catch fire.

Police said Bangay was electrocuted and suffered severe burns. The truck helper, Andrew Cabalinggan, was in critical condition in the Arcadio Buco pital in Cotabato, Isabela.

Uran, however, denied reports that Bangay died after he had drowned himself of his business interests when he assumed the mayoral post after the murder of Bagay Mayor Dionisio Alfonso in June.

Uran said the truck and its cargo were owned by lumber dealer Dipsa Abad.

Dela Cruz said he suspected that the truck carried illegal cargo, quoting witnesses' accounts that another vehicle, said to be owned by Abad, was involved in the incident but disappeared before the truck.

But Felix Tapalio, provincial environment officer of Isabela, said the shipment was legal.

Quoting records from the community environment and natural resources office (Cenro) in Barangay Tapalio said the shipment, valued at about P225,000, was to be delivered to Pampanga and Pangasinan.

"It was allowed to pass through Cenro because the shippers showed a complete set of documents. So are all leaving the center to get the cargo back," he said.

The shipment, Tapalio said, was covered by a permit issued by Celso Acosta, community environment officer of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Dagupan.

Tapalio said this was part of an estimated 91.2 cubic meters of hardwood lumber that Cinco was to set earlier auction put up by Kilusang Pagbabago Pampanga, the corporate arm of the LDDP.

Shadi Mayor Marvin Padilla said the cargo suffered the continued depletion of the country's forests.

"If not for the strong rules and orders that stopped the electric post, this cargo would have slipped past checkpoints again and the scrubbed clothing of cover in the forests would have gone unnoticed," Padilla said. *Rodolfo Kintanar and Inquirer Visayas Jr. Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Ex-NPA chief says air freer now for Left

Commander Bilog sees no Marcos era repression

By Norman Bordadora
Inquirer Central Luzon

ANGELES CITY—FOR RODOLFO SALAS, THE chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines and commander of the New People's Army during martial law, the recent killings and other forms of attacks on the Left are not near the repressive scale done by the military until 1986.

Unlike before, there is no general policy of suppression and elimination of opposition," Salas, 58, former then as Commander Bilog, said Wednesday on the eve of the 34th anniversary of the imposition of martial rule.

Largely, he said, the government is now "more liberal" and "lenient" to various ideologies and political activities.

"There's less chance a democratic space is closing the entry of [arrogant-facilitated] Marcos in Edsa I. The CPP is not anymore outlawed with the repeal of the anti-subversion law. The Left has entered the legal arena," he said.

Salas said the CPP and NPA, as well as Bayan Muna, helped install President Macapagal-Arroyo in power in January 2001.

He said the violence, especially in Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog, were initiated by "ultra-rightists [military]" within the Armed Forces of the Philippines. He said these were the same troops on which revered administration have relied.

"These were retired senior Edsa I. There is a preponderance of role by the military in government. Retro-2006 (Mr. Arroyo) and groups that were re-tapple her used the same factions as we saw in the February coup," Salas said.

He declined to name the generals in the faction behind the killings and abductions of political activists. But he said these officers now dominate the AFP.

But why eliminate the Left, the attacks on which, he said, are now confined to members and not key leaders?

"Partly to stifle dissent. I against the government. I have friends in newspapers that censored the AFP in the government," he said.

In doing these, he said the ruling clique in the AFP has "taken advantage of the stance" by the CPP and NPA like "killings, encounters, ambushes and disturbances."

Among the victims include human rights lawyer Romeo Capulong; farmers Tabara and Bartolome Quiaza.

SALAS

Salas said legitimate opposition should remain out against "ultra-rightists" in the military and "extreme leftists" in the CPP and NPA.

He said the current counter-insurgency campaign has not been effective because communist parties and organizations under them have "remained intact" as the leadership are preserved.

"The killings have only created fears in fact, it is counter-productive because it has driven people to the armed struggle. Many have gone underground (especially) in the last two years[,]" he said.

Martial rule

Marking the eve of the official declaration of martial law (Presidential Decree 1081), Salas said the basic points of thousands of people and the vast labour of the political apparatus were moderate or carried all over the country.

At that time, he was the secretary of the Central Luzon Committee of the CPP, which was established in 1968, and head of the training department of the NPA that was formed in 1969.

On the night Marcos declared martial law, Salas was in Barangay Lupang Baro in Angeles City, at the periphery of the Clark Air Base, helping Filipino base workers plan a mass protest against base layoffs.

Salas, who was 23 years old then and had finished engineering in the University of the Philippines, was elected to "full[ing] become an exile or 1971, upon the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, he was in the list of suspected subversives.

"I came underground in the CPP or any organization tagged by the military as CPP-led was subject to arrest and physical elimination," he said.

Marcos, he said, justified martial rule by blowing the so-called national threat by the NPA.

Camps

Anticipating repression, the CPP and NPA gradually shifted its focus from the cities to the countryside. Alongside, activists sought refuge in the guerrilla camps.

The NPA had just over 3,000 fighters and controlled areas in Isabela, Pangasinan, Tarlac, Zambales, Aurora and Camarines Sur in 1972, Because Central Luzon was the most logistics base, the NPA created over 300 satellites in at least 37 camps in Tarlac and 100 others in 10 camps in Pangasinan.

"There was organizational retreat," Salas said.

He said the CPP and NPA were weakened tactically because the military employed a two-pronged attack—conducting counter-insurgency in NPA-held territories alongside forced evacuations of civilians, starting and encouraging warring communities leaders.

Escaping prison in Camp Olivas, then the Bion Philippine Constabulary Zone, after four weeks of detention in May 1973, Salas reinstituted his role in CPP and NPA and resumed the rebuilding efforts in Central Luzon.

By 1976, the fighters were down to just over 1,000.

"There were massive losses," he said.

By 1976, he was elected CPP chair and became commander of the NPA a year later. He held these post until he went to Sept. 26, 1988.

"Because my top regional committees I commanded directly in the region," he said.

"We shifted to guerrilla warfare, expanded from the mountains to the hills and plains, organized and mobilized peasants and indigenous peoples, expanded the organizing, recruitment," he said. "It was a combination of armed and political struggles."

"Martial rule was not able to destroy the movement," Salas said.

In fact, he pointed out, the CPP and NPA as well as the Ilaw National Liberation Front, drew to its fold the political opposition at a time when some leaders either entered into compromises with the Marcos regime or sought exile abroad.

"The party managed to provide leadership although it suffered big losses," Salas said.

When Aquino assumed office in 1986, she ordered the release of top leaders of the CPP's central committee and political bureau as a gesture of national reconciliation, Salas said.

It was at this point that Salas was arrested by Metro Manila police for, as CPP claim, went down to some peace talks with the government.

Salas said then Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo worked out for his release paper, which then Armed Forces Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos opposed. Ramos's boss Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile blocked the "sabotage." The negotiations

Marinduque folk keep up manual cleanup of oil

BOAC, MARINDUQUE—IN AN EFFORT TO rid the shores of Marinduque of oil sludge, villagers from the 15 affected coastal barangays went ankle-deep gathering sand and stones smeared with oil using their bare hands.

Armed with shovels, sacks and gloves, the villagers, in September style, collectively and diligently put the oil-smeared aggregates inside sacks and hand them into the waiting dump trucks of the provincial engineering office.

Provincial employees, also, have started to distribute two 1-kilogram (2½-lb) touch-affected family under the Food-for-Work program implemented by Gov. Carmencita Reyes.

In the program, only those from the affected barangays who signed up and take part in the cleanup will be provided with the cotton of rice.

An undisturbed village, however, remarked that even if there are no rice provisions, they will clean up the shores on their own.

The Marinduque Diving Team, headed by Rito Sanchez, have conducted snorkeling activities in some of the affected barangays Monday afternoon to determine the extent of damage that the oil sludge had caused the coral reef structure within the area.

"We are glad that an undue shock on the coral structures yielded negative results. We did not find any oil smudges or deposits on the corals. We will continue to monitor and check other areas for possible damages on our marine ecosystem," Sanchez said.

The provincial government, meanwhile, said the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources are still investigating the cause of the oil sludge. Gerald Gene R. Quevedo, Inquirer Southern Luzon

PILL
Dark oil: Is it: Tents in Mezza Palencia, Quinarao, covering the village in a ton of bits. Panda is one of the areas hardest hit by an oil spill on a tanker that was carrying Petron bunker fuel. The village used as an immobile bite and crabs.

Mayors see treachery in N. Vizcaya 'jueteng'

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA—What should have been a united stand to reject the operations of small-town lottery (STL) in this province is turn facing doom after pro-STL mayors denounced the continued proliferation of "jueteng" by their colleagues' towns.

Bayugo Mayor Tony Dupitano, secretary general of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) chapter here, said the unusual jueteng bet collection in some towns violated the gentlemen's agreements the mayors had when they vowed to reject both STL and the illegal numbers game.

"It was clear that before we agreed to join a resolution opposing the entry of STL [in Nueva Vizcaya], we should also condemn jueteng. But bet collections never stopped," said Dupitano.

Police sources, however, said bet collection in lowland towns have never ordered stopped on Monday, a day after Senior Supt. Cesar Javier assumed office as Nueva Vizcaya police director.

The sources said operators were ordered to step up an anti-illegal gambling task force was set up in the province for a crackdown against jueteng operations.

Dupitano said he and a number of mayors supporting STL operations would withdraw their support for the LMP position against STL should jueteng operations continue.

"We (mayors) should not play games with our interest. Everyone knows that jueteng can never operate in a locality without the approval of the local chief executive," he said.

Bambang Mayor Pepito Balguy, LMP president here, could not be reached for comment on Wednesday. His office staff said the mayor was in Nueva Ecija for an official engagement

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Children of slain leftists pursue justice

By Nilo Cacbenio Calleja
Lipa, Laguna

CHILDREN AND RELATIVES of left-wing activists killed since 2001 when President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed power have organized themselves to pursue justice for their loved ones and to denounce the unending murders.

Glen Maldonan, 22, a hospital assistant has fulfilled a dream to work. Recently resigned from her work to an accountancy firm in Lipa, Laguna to join the Martir ng Bayan-Tayo Kabataan and "expose" human-rights violations allegedly perpetrated by the government.

Romy Maldonan, secretary-general of the party-list group Bayan Muna in Sta. Cruz, was shot dead in front of his house on Dec. 23, 2003. He previously headed the farmers' organization, Pagkakaisa ng Upanyos ng mga Magbubukid sa Laguna, and was a member of the executive committee of another peasant organization, the Kilusang ng Sambayang Magbubukid sa Timog Katagalugan.

He was also the executive assistant and close confidante of Bay Mayor Edwin Ramos.

When her father, an activist and church-goer of the government in 1990, was killed, just months by a military agent, Glen was a third year student of the Laguna College of Business and Arts, taking up accountancy course.

She said her family experienced frustration after Romy's death. "It had ruined us with all things provided, especially for our schooling," she said.

"I have lost trust in the Arroyo administration. It has been three years and yet any killer's case was only shelved. No culprit was convicted and I have not seen any development in the case," she said.

Nagkaisa, from the militant human rights group Karapatan-Southern Tagalog alone that Maldonan was one of the 63 farmers killed in Southern Tagalog since 2001.

Some 62 to 142 cases of political killings in Southern Tagalog since 2001 but identified cited. One said, "All of the relatives of the victims must call for justice. It is something that we owe to them, to ourselves and the people," she stressed.

Ms. Arroyo has created the Melo Commission, headed by retired Supreme Court Justice Jose Melo, to look into the killings, apparently prompted by appeals from international human rights watchdogs. Military officials have pointed to communist enemies as responsible for some of the killings.

Like Glen, Joanlito Calbo Serona, 23, who is fondly called Batchoy by his family members, said he would join rallies to tell on his dream to stop killings.

He is the son of Wenante "Sa Kano" delos Santos, a Dumagat leader, who was killed by members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Task Force Pasabos on Dec. 8, 2001, while he was participating in activities commemorating Human Rights Day.

GLEN Maldonan, daughter of slain peasant leader Romy Maldonan, and other protesters hold pictures of their loved ones in march in Sta. Cruz City in Laguna. —NILO CACBENIO CALLEJA

As Romy was accused by the military of belonging to communist the Presidium. He was a among the 12 to be raised against the Arroyo administration by the left-wing Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas before the United Nations Human Rights Council in Switzerland.

Together with some 150 relatives of other slain activists, Glen and Joanlito joined the Martir ng Bayan-TK in Laguna which was formally launched on Sept. 11 to continue the work that their parents wanted. As the group's secretary-general, Glen coordinates with the other victims' relatives.

Sustaining the hunt, Glen and Joanlito joined 1,000 protesters in a Sunday march from Laguna to Metro Manila, starting Sunday to condemn the political killings. They had already walked from Calamba City via Sta. Rosa City in Laguna.

At about 6 last night, the marchers were expected to reach the Alabang Viaduct area where they were to be welcomed by a contingent from Metro Manila with flag dancers and a torch parade.

They were supposed to arrive in Manila today, the 34th anniversary of the declaration of martial law by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Model teacher in Quezon spares the rod

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Lucena City

HANDLING A CLASSROOM full of energetic, albeit mischievous, children requires much patience and perseverance from teachers. But Ofelia Lavarez-Loñoza chooses an unorthodox approach in her Grade 3 class.

Her most effective tools in disciplining her pupils? Money.

For days a week for the past 40 years, Loñoza, 60, has been keeping her vow to some young minds in the quest for knowledge. Handling the challenges and frustrations commonly in the public school system.

Her dedication was not lost on her fellow teachers and superiors at the Lucena Heath 1 Elementary School in Barangay 1 in Lucena City. She was nominated and eventually chosen as one of Metrobank Foundation's 13 Outstanding Teachers of 2006 for which she received a P250,000 cash grant and trophy.

The winners' schools were given projects of recognition and financial assistance for faculty development.

President Macapagal-Arroyo conferred on the awardees the symbolic gold medallion for serving as models of excellence in the teaching profession.

"I never pinch or slap my students. I just stop talking when I'm angry, and my students would pick up the cue that I'm asking them to behave. It's quite effective," she said.

She said she never shouted at her students. "Young as they are, they can tell if you're angry or not," she said.

Loñoza said she had trained her children "without the need for me to shout at them just to watch discipline."

Occasionally, though, she admitted that she ordered erring pupils to stand in a corner of the room as punishment.

She often advised new Grade 1 teachers to avoid using a stick.

She opposed a reported plan of the Department of Education to require applicants for teaching positions in public schools to pass psychological tests amid increasing reports of teachers inflicting physical harm on students.

"There's no need for that measure. I believe no teacher wants to harm children. We all want our pupils to learn, we only have different approaches," she said.

Showing her devotion to her pupils, she pays often, gratuities after class tutorials or summer make-up sessions to slow learners.

"Loñoza come home late. After school, I provide extra time to some of my students for them to be able to cope with the rest of the class. Together, we review the day's lessons. Even during summer vacation, I also offer make-up class for the slow learners free of charge," Loñoza said.

She noted that many of the government-issued textbooks did not satisfy the actual educational needs of students. To make up for the shortage of relevant textbooks, Loñoza has been producing books in English and Pilipino which she herself conceptualized, designed and edited.

"Most of my reading materials are readily available. The texts and drawings are all handwritten. I photocopy the original for distribution the rest of processing the pages, which I bind together into a book. I give them all to my pupils for free," she said.

Loñoza said one of her former pupils in elementary did the typewriting for free and produced a computerized copy of her handwritten materials.

Benny Briseño, a Lucena native who is into the printing business in Marikina, has also offered to donate 1,000 copies of one of her books titled "Balitang Magkaibigan."

"I'm doing this because it is important for the kids to first learn how to read. Before, I was making multiple copies using several sheets of used bond paper so that my pupils will have something to

LOÑOZA

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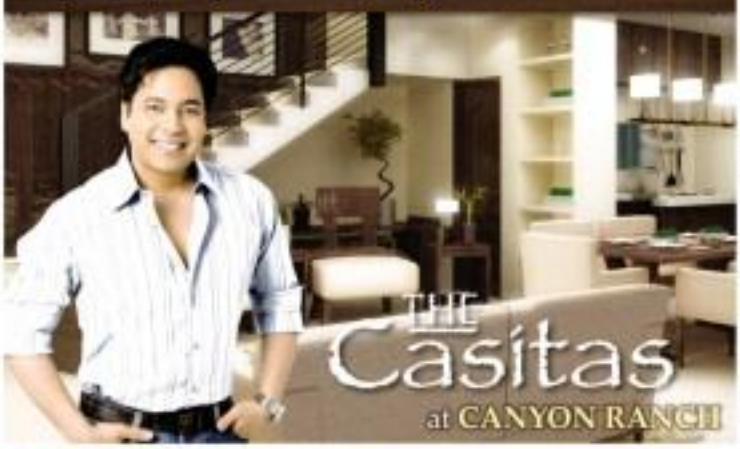

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₱47-B bill approved, now awaits GMA nod

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ratified last Tuesday the final version of the P46.9-billion supplemental budget for 2006, paving the way for its signing into law by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The swift plenary approval was made possible after House appropriations committee chair Jose Salceda of Albay convinced members of the lower house to accept the Senate version, thus obviating the need for a bicameral conference meeting.

"The passage of the supplemental budget is imperative to provide authority for expenditures that are not in the remained 2005 budget but are either mandatory by virtue of law, or necessary for the welfare of the public servants," said Salceda.

The supplemental budget will cover the gap in funding after Congress failed to pass the P1 trillion 2006 budget because of Senate cuts, forcing the government to operate on a reenacted 2005 budget.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles expects the 540-page final version to be signed by the President "at the earliest possible time."

In a statement from Havana, Cuba, Speaker Jose de Venecia credited the "judicious efforts" of Salceda, Nograles and all the members of the House, including the "constructive cooperation" of Minority Leader Francis Escudero, for the budget approval.

No major changes

"This is our commitment to the Filipino People. I commend all the members of the House and thank the Senators for their statesmanship for the sake of our people," De Venecia said.

Nograles told the House plenary agreed to **all the amendments the Senate made on the** House supplemental budget version contained **in the 2006 General Appropriations Act.**

He said no major changes were proposed **by the Senate except for some realignments in** the funds distribution among departments **which would not affect the overall funding re**quest for the national government in such **spending authorization from Congress.**

Salceda explained that there were no major differences in both the House and the Senate versions.

The Senate approved on Sept. 13 the Malacañang-proposed supplemental budget almost in its entirety, except for some realignment of funds from some agencies to the Department of Education (DepEd).

The biggest appropriation in the budget at P14.8 billion will cover the increase in the annual service allowance of local government units.

The DepEd got the second biggest share of P9.381 billion. **This amount includes provi**sions for the hiring of 10,000 new teachers, **the building of more schools and the payment** of long-overdue benefits for thousands of **teachers and nonteaching staff.**

The measure also appropriated P1.3 billion **to cover the deficiency of the national govern**ment to unpaid pension payments to the Government Service Insurance System for the period July 1997 to December 1998.

The budget of the DOTC was infused by P1 billion with the deferral of the equity **owned by the public** some P134 million was cut from the budget of the Professional Regulation Commission.

With the passage of supplemental budget, the House will now shift its attention to next year's budget. Salceda had already informed Nograles, the chair of the committee on rules, that he would sponsor in plenary next week the proposed P1.117-trillion 2007 General Appropriations Act.

"We will have the plenary debates the following week and hopefully finish plenary consideration in the week after," Nograles said.

Based on its time table, Congress in plenary could approve the proposed 2007 budget before it adjourns on Oct. 14, according to Nograles.

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Color Editor G. Dipasupil

VICTORIA

Bar manager sues PBA coach

Complainant asks court for ₱700,000 in damages

WE'RE READY
A teacher and her students crouch on the ground, their heads protected by shoelaces, at the Arellano High School in Sta. Cruz, Manila. Public schools nationwide yesterday held a simultaneous earthquake drill, the second for this year. AFP

By DJ Yap

AN ASSISTANT COACH OF THE Philippine Basketball Association has been charged with coercion, filing two felony suits by a bar manager in Quezon City.

Emmanuel "Boobby" Victoria Jr., who coaches the Coca-Cola Tigers, was accused of making unwanted sexual advances toward the 25-year-old woman, who manages a bar on E. Rodriguez Avenue in Bagumbayan.

In a complaint filed at the Quezon City prosecutor's office on Saturday, the woman said the former basketball player touched her in inappropriate places when he visited the bar on the night of July 14 until after midnight the next day.

The complainant said she was seeking ₱500,000 in moral damages, ₱100,000 in exemplary damages and another ₱100,000 in lawyer's fees.

The prosecutor tried but failed to reach his or her counsel.

According to the complaint, Victoria went to the bar on July 14. As she was talking to a guest, she said the basketball coach suddenly embraced her, wrapped his right arm around her neck and then kissed her on the face and neck.

The woman said she was so shocked that she was not able to react from the sudden outburst. She said that she even suffered burn s resulting in abrasions due to the strong pressure exerted on her neck.

Victoria has not but not responded, saying he wanted to spend the night with his wife, the woman said in her complaint.

She added that when she went to her superior to complain about Victoria's actions, the basketball coach approached her from behind and grabbed her breasts.

At this point, the woman said she turned around to slap him on the face. But because of the latter's height, she only managed to scratch his face.

According to her, her bosses reportedly asked Victoria to leave the bar. But before he left, he reportedly hit the waitress for her to spend the night with him, she added.

The woman said she reported the incident to the P Tuason Boulevard Police Station on July 26.

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13 youthful offenders reunited with their parents

By Margaux C. Ortiz

PERSONAL EFFECTS HEIL HAMEL, A 13-YEAR-OLD BOY DETAINED for robbery, was in high spirits as he faced a crowd of social workers and parents at the Manila City Hall yesterday morning.

Star City resumes operations

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE PASAY CITY GOVERNMENT yesterday allowed Star City to resume operations although acting Mayor Allan Panaligan warned of "drastic measures" should security or incident issues inside the amusement park.

Two of the park's attractions, Sentosa—the Wild River and Bubble Bumper rides—will remain closed.

Panaligan ordered the closure of Star City on Tuesday after one of the cars in the Bubble Bumper ride reached upside and smoke on Monday. The 11-year-old girl who was riding in the car was rushed to the hospital but was released after her parents complained that park employees did not help her child.

Besides, the amusement park was ordered to shut down by Wild River ride after a 13-year-old girl accident fell to her death while riding in one of the attraction's slippery last week.

Panaligan said the two rides would remain closed until park officials have complied with safety measures recommended by City Engineer Edwin Arevalo.

"We are so thankful that we were given a chance to get out of jail and reunite with our families," Heil said, in a soft but unwavering voice, said in Filipino.

"You can be sure we will not waste this golden opportunity," shouted the teenager who looked small for his age.

Heil's not one of 13 minors—aged 15 years old and below—in the first batch of children to testified with the law (CICL) to be released from the Manila Youth Reception Center (MRC) to their parents' custody.

The MRC is a rehabilitation center for youthful offenders.

Mayor Lito Atienza said the project was in accordance with Republic Act 9344 or the Juvenile Justice Juvenile Justice Welfare Act, which was signed in May 2006.

"I think now are the first local government unit to fully implement this new law," Atienza told reporters after the turnover ceremony yesterday.

He stressed that he could not think of any jail that could give more benefit and hope to children.

"Society and government can only do so much for these children; only their families can ensure their proper upbringing," Atienza said.

Manila Department of Social Welfare (DSWD) chief Jose Bernardo said a total of 24 CICLs would be sent home this month.

He added that most youth offenders to the MRC were residents of Tondo who were apprehended for robbery, theft and sniffing highs.

ACTRESS Candice Barrera is jailed with about a group of nine-week QuezonCity Hall employees after stepped out of their office just to see her and her husband, actor Raymart Santiago. The couple were in court yesterday in connection with the case they filed against magazine editor Jo-Ann Maglaya. AFP PHOTO

Editor violated our right to privacy, actor tells court

By Marynet San Diego Jr. and Oji Yap

ACTOR-TOM RAYMART SANTIAGO yesterday testified that editor Jo-Ann Maglaya did not ask him or his wife, actress Claudine Barretto, for permission when she published pictures of the couple's honeymoon in her magazine.

According to Barretto's lawyers, Raymond Fortun, Santiago told Judge Ramon Cruz of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 225 that "the photographs of their honeymoon appeared in the September 2004 issue of the magazine that Maglaya edits, came out without their consent or permission."

Fortun told the Inquirer that Santiago also testified that the article in fact encompassed the photos "violated not just our right to privacy, but also the security rules of our village. The story even showed our exact home address."

"I was surprised when the article came out. I felt violated. This kind of practice showed proof of irresponsible journalism," the actor said in court.

Santiago took the witness stand on behalf of Barretto who filed a civil case against Maglaya last year.

In her petition, Barretto asked a Quezon City court to "prevent non-suit" Maglaya from getting within 150 meters of her, claiming the editor of her magazine published unauthorized pictures of her in unguarded moments and wrote articles that had cast her in a bad light.

Maglaya countered by filing seven counts of libel against the actress for painting her as a "rude, uneducated, insensitive person who would resort to illegal, dangerous and even treacherous means in order to own a living."

Barretto was present at the hearing, along with fellow Star member lawyer.

Maglaya's counsel, Emelio Cornel, meanwhile, said, "We maintain our position that the claim to privacy of Claudine through Raymart is not as important as freedom of the press. After all, they are celebrities who solicit solicitous." He added that the couple's honeymoon still a matter of public interest and, therefore, within the realm of free expression.

Libel cases against newsmen unfair

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

METRO BRIEFS

In trouble

THE CHIEF of the Muntinlupa Police District (MPD) yesterday ordered the filing of charges against his subordinates who allegedly shot to death a retired civil servant and wounded his common-law family.

Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chairman Bayani Fernando said suspects PO3 Daniel Villanueva and PO2 Aldus Tinsay were positively identified by witnesses as the policemen who fired at a group of teenagers in Tondo, Thursday last week.

Fernando, in a statement, said he has ordered the filing of charges against the two policemen, Allan Mangampan and Arnold Sebastian.

Marynet C. Diaz

Robbed

THIEVES broke into the Subic tollbooth late on Wednesday evening, escaping with P300,000. The loot was discovered by the toll booth operators on the duty breaks at around 10 p.m. "We are sorry to inconvenience our motorists," Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) chairman and chief executive officer Armando Viola said.

Alexis Z. Sevilla Jr.

Police raid

TWO people were arrested in a raid on a suspected drug den in Caloocan City on Wednesday night.

Those arrested were Jerome Mora Gabriel, 26, and Jayson Mora Gabriel, 30, alleged operators of the establishment, were arrested, along with one of their employees. The police also confiscated plastic bags of shabu, drug paraphernalia and cash.

Joseph R. Uy

WHO still lacks funding to fight bird flu

AUCKLAND—THE WORLD Health Organization still lacks half the funds it needs to help countries fight bird flu as more human cases are reported in the coming months, the outgoing director general said.

WHO needs $90 million to $100 million over a two-year period, but has only received about half that amount, Andrew Henderson told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

"We have still not been able to fill the gap. There's a pill a shortfall," Henderson said. "We still are able to respond when there are outbreaks, but to be able to really work with countries to build up good surveillance systems and information systems, we do need more resources."

He said individual countries also need to come up with more funding to help strengthen surveillance and rapid-response systems within their borders.

International donors in January pledged $1.9 billion in funding to help fight bird flu and prepare for a pandemic, but only a portion of that money has been disbursed.

Henderson spoke on the sidelines of the weeklong annual WHO Western Pacific regional meeting in Auckland, New Zealand, which brings together health officials from across the Asia-Pacific to set the organization's strategic agenda for coming years.

Bird flu has remained a top item on the meeting's agenda for the third straight year. Experts fear the H5N1 virus will mutate into a form that spreads easily among people, potentially sparking a pandemic. So far, most human cases have been linked to contact with infected birds.

As the cooler months approach, Henderson said another spate of poultry outbreaks and human infections will likely emerge, but added that many countries have made great strides to combat the virus.

Representatives from nearly 20 countries pledged their support and vowed to continue working together to prepare for a worst-case scenario, with several Pacific Island nations requesting help in monitoring migratory birds.

The H5N1 virus has killed at least 144 people since it began ravaging Asian poultry stocks in late 2003.

On Tuesday, delegates also tackled the topic of chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes and cancer, which are the world's No. 1 killers, causing 35 million deaths a year—60 percent of all deaths worldwide. Globally, 1 billion people are overweight or obese, according to the WHO.

"What we have before us is an overwhelming pandemic of chronic diseases," said Robert Beaglehole, director of the WHO Geneva-based chronic diseases department.

Just as countries target tobacco and decreased advertising, governments can do the same for sugary drinks and fatty foods, he said. Children and teenagers also can be educated healthy foods in school and be encouraged to exercise.

Non-communicable diseases are blamed for seven out of every 10 deaths among the Pacific region's 1.8 million people. AP

WORLD BRIEFS

'Croc hunter' gets high-energy farewell

BERRIMAH, Australia—Family, friends, fans and more than one flamboyant politician bade farewell to "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin in a high-energy memorial service baked by boogie music and shouts. Irwin's devastated widow Terri and their two children appeared in public for the first time since the shocking Australia Day death in a freak stingray attack just weeks ago to hear a sweat of emotional tributes to the Australian hero. But it was his seemingly poised daughter, 8-year-old Bindi, who stole the show and brought the 5,000 mourners to their feet and to tears when she hailed her dad's work and pledged to follow in his footsteps. AFP

Mine explosion in Kazakhstan kills 18

ALMATY, Kazakhstan—A methane explosion tore through a Kazakh coal mine on Wednesday, killing 18 miners and leaving 20 others unaccounted for, the Emergency Situations Ministry said. Some 214 miners were working underground at the time of the explosion, ITAR-Tass said, citing a representative of the Mittal Steel Temirtau company, which owns the mine. Mariana Iyleva, a Kazakhstan regional emergency official, said four rescuers were confirmed dead. AP

Five nations to fund cheap drugs

RIO DE JANEIRO—Brazil, Chile, France and Norway formally announced a plan to fund cheap drugs for AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis for developing nations by raising taxes on airline tickets. The group will work with former US President Bill Clinton's foundation to negotiate discounts with drug companies and will channel their efforts through Unitaid, a new organization announced along with Brazil on Tuesday in the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. "How can so many people go hungry in a world so full of riches," Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said when the official announcement was made Tuesday. He said Arab oil-rich countries may join them. "Is another form of hunger." AFP

Floods kill 31 people in India

HYDERABAD—Torrential rains and floods have killed at least 31 people over the past two days in the southeastern state of Andhra Pradesh, officials said Wednesday. An estimated 2,000 people have been evacuated to safety and many villages were cut off after roads and railway tracks were submerged when heavy to the state overflowed their banks. Most deaths were due to collapsed houses, or people swept away by floodwaters, said N. T. Priyadarshini, a relief official. AP

Suicide truck bomb kills 7 in Iraq

BAGHDAD—A suicide truck bomb slammed into a police headquarters building in Baghdad on Wednesday, destroying the building and killing seven police men, police said. Another 16 people, including at least one civilian, were wounded in the attack in the southern Baghdad neighborhood of Doura, said police Capt. Jamil Hussein, adding the number of casualties was likely to increase. AP

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
Roxas Boulevard corner Vito Cruz Street
Manila 1004

DEPARTMENT ORDER 27-06

TO : **ALL INSURANCE COMPANIES DOING BUSINESS IN THE PHILIPPINES**

SUBJECT : **CAPITALIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR LIFE, NON-LIFE, AND REINSURANCE COMPANIES**

WHEREAS, stable and reliable insurance and reinsurance systems greatly influence the country's economic development by impacting the level of capital formation and allocation and engendering consumer confidence in the systemic integrity of the financial system;

WHEREAS, capitalization is one of the most vital financial ratios used by insurance companies. The Philippines has one of the lowest capital requirements among the Asian countries which has impaired the ability of local insurance companies to compete at least with ASEAN and other regional players in the period of economic globalization;

WHEREAS, the low minimum capitalization requirements are inadequate relative to:

a. the market business infrastructure and quality management upon that will ensure better performance by all stakeholders and expand its market penetration; and
b. the adequate allowance for increased business volatility and for mitigating market imperfections;

WHEREAS, capital bases must be inbuilt because low capitalization levels have resulted in low retention ratios and heavy reliance on reinsurance;

WHEREAS, the solvency position of insurers must be secured and stable capital bases reduce insolvency risk and afford better protection to the insuring public;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me by the provisions of Section 192 of the Insurance Code, as amended, the following are hereby promulgated:

I. Any licensed entity Philippine-owned domestic life or non-life insurance company existing, operating, or otherwise doing business in the Philippines, licensed as of the effectivity of this Order, shall maintain the minimum net worth requirements specified in accordance with the following schedule of compliance:

	Minimum Statutory Net Worth	Minimum Paid-Up Capital	By (Compliance Date)
A. Phg. 100 Million		Php. 50 Million	December 31, 2006
B. Php. 100 Million		Php. 75 Million	December 31, 2007
C. Php. 500 Million		Php. 100 Million	December 31, 2008
D. Php. 250 Million		Php. 125 Million	December 31, 2009
E. Php. 300 Million		Php. 150 Million	December 31, 2010
F. Php. 350 Million		Php. 200 Million	December 31, 2011

II. Any life or non-life insurance company existing, operating, or otherwise doing business in the Philippines with more than forty percent (40%) but not more than sixty percent (60%) foreign equity must possess of capitalization hereunder specified in accordance with the following schedule of compliance:

	Minimum Statutory Net Worth	Minimum Paid-Up Capital	By (Compliance Date)
A. Php. 200 Million		Php. 100 Million	December 31, 2006
B. Php. 300 Million		Php. 150 Million	December 31, 2007
C. Php. 500 Million		Php. 200 Million	December 31, 2008
D. Php. 550 Million		Php. 250 Million	December 31, 2009
E. Php. 600 Million		Php. 300 Million	December 31, 2010

III. Any life or non-life insurance company existing, operating, or otherwise doing business in the Philippines with more than sixty percent (60%) but less than sixty percent (60%) foreign equity must possess of capitalization hereunder specified in accordance with the following schedule of compliance:

	Minimum Statutory Net Worth	Minimum Paid-Up Capital	By (Compliance Date)
A. Php. 300 Million		Php. 150 Million	December 31, 2006
B. Php. 450 Million		Php. 225 Million	December 31, 2007
C. Php. 550 Million		Php. 300 Million	December 31, 2008
D. Php. 650 Million		Php. 350 Million	December 31, 2009
E. Php. 750 Million		Php. 350 Million	December 31, 2010

IV. Any life or non-life insurance company existing, operating, or otherwise doing business in the Philippines with at least sixty percent (60%) foreign equity must possess of capitalization hereunder specified in accordance with the following schedule of compliance:

	Minimum Statutory Net Worth	Minimum Paid-Up Capital	By (Compliance Date)
A. Php. 500 Million		Php. 250 Million	December 31, 2006
B. Php. 650 Million		Php. 325 Million	December 31, 2007
C. Php. 750 Million		Php. 400 Million	December 31, 2008
D. Php. 850 Million		Php. 450 Million	December 31, 2009
E. Php. 1 Billion		Php. 500 Million	December 31, 2010

V. Any reinsurance company existing, operating, or otherwise doing business in the Philippines must possess of capitalization hereunder specified in accordance with the following schedule of compliance:

	Minimum Statutory Net Worth	Minimum Paid-Up Capital	By (Compliance Date)
A. Php. 550 Million		Php. 275 Million	December 31, 2006
B. Php. 1.25 Billion		Php. 375 Million	December 31, 2007
C. Php. 1.25 Billion		Php. 625 Million	December 31, 2008
D. Php. 1.50 Billion		Php. 750 Million	December 31, 2009
E. Php. 1.50 Billion		Php. 1.50 Billion	December 31, 2010

VI. The statutory net worth of life, non-life, and reinsurance companies shall include the company's paid-up capital, capital in excess of par value, contingency surplus, retained earnings, and revaluation increments as may be approved by the Insurance Commission.

VII. All existing life, non-life, or reinsurance companies must submit a detailed Capital Build-up Program for the Years 2006 to 2010, accompanied by an undertaking of the board of directors to this effect and attested to by the corporate chief executive officer and chief financial officer, not later than October 31, 2006.

VIII. No life, non-life, or reinsurance company may be rehabilitated and authorized to transact business in the Philippines if non-compliance with, or possession of the minimum capitalization levels required under Department Order 1-2006.

IX. The requirements under this Order shall be without prejudice to other requirements to be imposed under the Risk-Based Capital method to be adopted by the Insurance Commission, and the statutory Margin of Solvency requirement under Section 194 of the Insurance Code.

The Insurance Commission may issue such other guidelines as it deems necessary to effectively implement the provisions of this Order. Non-compliance with this Order and additional guidelines shall result to the revocation of the life, non-life, or reinsurance company's license to do business or certificate of authority.

This supersedes provisions of Department Order Nos. 19-95, 50-94, 44-96, and 21-97 as are inconsistent with the provisions of this Department Order.

This Department Order shall take effect immediately.

Signed on September 1, 2006

MARGARITO B. TEVES
Secretary
Department of Finance

Recommending approval:

EVANGELINE CRISOSTOMO-ESCOBILLO
Insurance Commissioner

The WORLD

John Lorraine B. Garcia

Hungary PM's admission of lying sparks outrage

BUDAPEST—FIFTY SEVEN PEOPLE WERE INJURED AND AROUND 100 detained as protesters demanding the prime minister's resignation clashed with police in the Hungarian capital for a second night, officials said.

Riot police used tear gas and water cannons to disperse the demonstrators, who hurled bottles and other objects at the officers and set fire to a police car and several garbage cans in the riots near the governing Socialist Party's headquarters.

Mayor Gabor Demszky told public television Wednesday morning that 57 people were injured. Budapest police chief Peter Gergenyi said 24 of the injured were police, four of whom are in serious condition, and that 98 protesters had been detained.

The clashes came after a peaceful demonstration by more than 30,000 people outside parliament Tuesday evening, who called on Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany to quit after the weekend broadcast of a leaked recording in which he admitted that he had lied about the state of the economy in order to win general elections in April.

The speech first sparked violence before dawn on Tuesday in which some 150 people were injured in riots after protesters stormed and briefly occupied the headquarters building of the state television broadcaster, one block from parliament.

Gyurcsany has steadfastly rejected calls to resign, saying he admitted having lied because he wanted to make a fresh start and usher in a new period of honesty necessary in spite drastic major reforms in order to a skyrocketing deficit that threatens economic stability.

"The correct decision is to stay," Gyurcsany told state television Tuesday, rejecting opposition calls for him to resign if he hasn't lived up to his promises he included in two-week time.

Asked if he would lose to the protesters and roll back his economic reforms, he said: "No, these are my policies." AFP

A PROTESTER throws a bottle at the riot policemen in Budapest early Wednesday after Hungarian Premier Ferenc Gyurcsany admitted that officials had "lied morning, evening and night" about the real status of economy.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
[illegible]

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMITS (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Office applications for Alien Employment Permits.

Name and address of Employer/Company	Name of Foreign National	Position
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[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Red Warriors, Tigers duel for title slot today /A24

SPORTS

Editor Teddyrick S. Melendres

■ US eyes Woods romp with Furyk at Ryder Cup/A26

COJUANGCO

Cojuangco doubts credentials of SBP board

By Marvyn R. Castillo

IT WON'T BE EASY AS AN UNWELCOME dunk when Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas (SBP) finally seeks recognition from the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, the POC president who has butted his nose in the boat players to represent the Philippines internationally yesterday said that he saw flaws in SBP's newly-drafted constitution and bylaws.

"I cannot be partial to anybody here," Cojuangco told the boxmen. "But the board I mean here, in newspaper accounts, don't seem to be fully elected officials of the league they represent—if they are representing leagues or all."

The former Tarlac representative, who celebrated his 73rd birthday on Tuesday, said he received a copy of SBP's articles of incorporation and bylaws a call from Monico V. Puentebella, chair of the panel that crafted the SBP constitution.

While admitting that he has yet to read his copy, Cojuangco was quick to point out the discrepancy in the definition of the term "basketball sport" in the basketball body.

"If it is a transitory [body] because they are [there] pursuant, then I think it is OK," Cojuangco said. "But if it is a permanent board, then a lot of questions need to be asked, foremost of which is, 'Are these officials elected by the organizations they represent?'"

"I can't see these [members] to be permanent, because they never conducted elections."

Asked if the POC has the authority to refuse the SBP recognition because of this detail, Cojuangco said, "The POC has all the powers."

"The SBP finished drafting the constitution and bylaws at the end of last week and has, in fact, named 24 members as nominee in that board—12 each from the warring Basketball Association of the Philippines and Philippine Basketball.

Puentebella was offered the presidency of the board, but the BAASC and PEBT chair politely turned down the offer.

Among the members of the board are BAP president Joey Lim and PB head Bernie Atienza.

Puentebella, as the 25th member, is obviously the tiebreaker if there is a deadlock on any issue.

Dolphins forge rubber match

By Marc Anthony Reyes

GABBY Espinas takes a shot off San Beda's Jay-R Taguiam in PCU's blowout victory yesterday. BONG SON

WITH GABBY ESPINAS flashing his old dominating form, Philippine Christian U pulled off a 70-52 shocker over San Beda last night to send the NCAA men's basketball best-of-three championship series to a rubber match tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum.

The pre-bound Espinas, hardly making a difference in Game 1, notched a game-high 22 points as the Dolphins dealt the Red Lions' first defeat in 14 games—and the worst this season... so any alive for a second crowd in three years.

The 6-foot-5 Espinas, the 2004 Rookie-of-the-Year awardee, and the rest of the Dolphins made sure to really set the first half that there wouldn't be a re-ony party yet for San Beda, which was ready to unfurl streamers and release balloons to celebrate its first title in 28 years.

The Dolphins started like a house on fire, opened up a huge 37-17 lead at halftime and solidify protected their double-digit edge to the dismay of the large pro-San Beda crowd, who showed a virtual sea of red at the Big Dome.

"Everybody stepped up and threw was the in their own," said PCU coach Joel Tiodan. "Gabby was able to prove that PCU is an Espinas team."

Cheryl Jimenez, Bobby Ulanti and Lindon Ara parade ably backed up Espinas, who will soon be playing for the San Miguel Beermen in the PBA.

Yousif Aljamal and Rony Escobal don't nearly blanks for San Beda and failed to provide support for the injured Nigerian Jaro Ilesa, this year's MVP and rookie favorites, who still managed 14 points, 15 rebounds, three shots blocks and a steal.

Aljamal and Escobal finished with a combined five points after hitting 19 and 14, respectively, in the opener of the title series, which is the Lions impressively took at 71-57 last Wednesday.

Earlier, the San Sebastian Stagbats unleashed their full offensive arsenal against the listless PCU Baby Dolphins en route the juniors' crown, 65-46. The Stagbats led by as many as 22 points and cruised to their second straight title.

No. 1 game
Red Lions (46)
San Sebastian (65)

Second Game (3rd)
PCU (46)
San Beda (65)

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Red Warriors, Tigers duel for title slot today

GIFT OF GAB: Ateneo's Rachel Arnaiz de Guzman tries to get a shot off over Adamson's Jessica Galanza during the Lady Falcons' 25-19, 25-19, 25-19 victory in the UAAP women's volleyball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum yesterday. ALEX BALTAZAR

COMPOSURE WILL play a big part when the Santo Tomas Tigers and the University of the East Warriors dispute the remaining UAAP championship berth today.

The Tigers and the Red Warriors, both reaping unpredictable campaigns this season, have equal chances in their do-or-die semifinal match-up at 4 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum.

The winner will face the Ateneo Blue Eagles in a best-of-three title series starting Sunday.

"The players really want to win, but we must stress composure," said UST coach Pido Jarencio.

Frustrating the second-seeded Warriors, the Tigers extended the semifinal series with a 79-77 triumph last Tuesday.

"The boys are still motivated, they don't want to blow our chance to beat Adamson," said UE mentor Dindo Pumaren. "I think there's pressure on both teams, as it just depends on which team handles it better."

The Tigers swapped up their semifinal assignment with a 76-75 victory over the Adamson Falcons earlier Thursday.

For Jarencio, unpredictability has manifested in the Tigers' form. "As I've said from the start, anyone in this team can step up," said Jarencio.

Sophomore Mark Cardoz, who shot a team-high 16 points against the Warriors, turned over to the unspoiler purchases for the tourney that had the Espanyol and Bocaue most of the season.

The accelerated Tigers will try to threaten the fifth third-seeded team to overcome the twice-to-beat advantage. In 2002, the Eagles pulled off the semifinal feat against BU and went on to win the championship.

Jarencio expects an all-out war.

"They'll be back, they're a strong team," said Jarencio of the Warriors, the pre-season favorites. "But we're always ready. We go for the win every game. I expect Rainelli (Ilao) to give us the lead in a nerve-breaking."

Pumaren acknowledged the Tigers' desire to extend the key to Game 3 last Thursday.

"Our advantage is our system, but I reminded the boys that we should also have the will to win," he said. "UST played with a lot of intensity and we have to match that." Jaymelou M. Reyes

MVP Council UST looks for an open man against Robert Lagdaan of UE. The Tigers and the Warriors battle for the last Final-four berth today. ALEX BALTAZAR

Tough Tribu five debuts vs Tagaytay Spring today

MARC TORRE (Inquirer.net)

TAGAYTAY CITY, ODD.—COMMANDING TOBIAS Englis faces an acid test in its debut today without it recent coach leader Tagaytay Spring Of to the Spring Cooking Of NBC Nationals Cup in the city gym here.

Odds are even in the 6 p.m. match where Tagaytay Spring hopes to emulate the feat was survivor mate.

The Cebuanos, the first NBC champions who have remained after a one-week-over here, are vying to kick off their bid for a second title.

"The boys are hungry for action," said Al Ito, coach of the squad backed by debuts and design. "This game will be an acid test for us."

Still, it counting on old stalwarts Marvin Hernandez, Gerardo Abanes, Alex Compler and Ronald Dulay to spearhead. If they compete in the tournament supported by Bulacan Lanes, Hunter's Spring, Molten, Holiday Plaza Hotel Cebu and Prime Channel.

The Tagaytay Spring squad of NBC president Samuel "Sam" Gaddia and NBC executive vice president and Tagaytay Mayor Bainbel Tolentino, which beat Valenzuela and defending champion Quantic Cebu in its first two outings, boasts six PBL veterans Nino Epondulan, Elbert Vera, Noelel Mallare, Danny Cagadiran, Alden Miranda and Ellie Reyes.

'We'll make the weight, then celebrate'

By Francis Ochoa

THE TABLES HAVE BEEN TURNED.

This time, it is Erik Morales who beholden's being disrespected. And it is all the intimate thing ever sets down he has something to prove when he fights Filipino boxing sensation Manny Pacquiao for the third time on Nov. 15 at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas.

"I can't wait to give him an opportunity," Morales, also known as El Terrible, told reporters in a conference call between for the fight. "Today I will tell you to believe in me. This is the first time that I am going to be training in great shape."

Morales' last match might have very well been addressed to Team Pacquiao.

"They are saying that they're going to knock me out and that they are going to kill me," Morales said. "I will say to them in their face that the only thing I need to worry about is to come in great condition and make it the weight. Then we will celebrate on Nov. 16."

Pacquiao was described by writers with no who attended the event as calm and relaxed.

"I know he's in great shape right now," De Pacman was quoted as saying by Fightfanatics.com. "I know he will make the weight on Nov. 14 and I know he will be 100 percent in condition. It's going to be a great fight."

The two super featherweight superstars met at the Beverly Hills Hotel for the press conference for their third fight.

Pacquiao (42-3-2, 35 KOs) and Morales (50-5, 34 KOs) split their two engagements, making their next bout dubbed "The Grand Finale," a potential blockbuster.

"This will be a big fight for everyone," said Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's American trainer. "I know Morales wants revenge and Manny has his whole team to defend him."

Morales has been very hard at work to make the weight. A contract stipulation requires him to pay $500,000 for every pound he is overweight.

Tickets have reportedly been selling like hotcakes and promoter Bob Arum expects 30,000 to watch the bout.

MORALES: Believe in me.

Abarrientos now a King; Cabagnot returns to SLR

PBA unveils new ticket scheme

CABAGNOT

RAMON-GO GUERRA formally inserted Johnny Abarrientos in to the Kings' lineup, and a repentant Alex Cabagnot is now part of the Hot Asian roster for the coming Philippine basketball season (almost).

At this developed, commissioner Noli Eala announced the unveiling of a new ticket system that will allow fans to, among others, reserve seats in their locker rooms so an initial step to increase attendance during games.

Abarrientos was part of the 13-man roster submitted by new Hong coach Ang Gabisan, who struck off forward Alex Galvanang in favor of the one-time Most Valuable Player.

Also left out was forward Jay Rodriguez to feel Hall Bonnie, Billy Mamaril and Rudy Hatfield from Cone Colts to boost an already imposing frontcourt corps of Eric Menk, Andy Seigle, Mike Harper and Jason Ian Salvador.

The Builders, on the other hand, left several players consigned after last season and took in Cabagnot, who inked a fresh contract with a team he had abandoned twice only to get back in it.

Details of the new agreement were not available but if Jojo Cabagnot on a very tight leash. The University of Ilo-Ilo Heroes product have money penalties should he make yet another disappearing act.

"But if you don't give me conference points," said SLR governor Buddy Encarnacion.

Among the unsigned Realtors were Cielo Valenzuela, Jaimel Ramos, Mac Cuan, Chester Tolentino and Oliver Aguelles.

Meanwhile, fans can now watch all the games of their favorite team at the Araneta Coliseum with a single token. Using the All Team Access Pass plan, fans can also send their other of families and get a seat of locker room-style privileges.

The passes are priced at P6,000, P9,500 and P13,000.

"The board, under chair Ricky Vargas, really wants fans to have families options on the purchase of orders," said Eala.

The league is also expanding its base of ticket outlets, which now include all Sun Mig Foods branches, Upper Box A ticket prices will also be cut by as much as 30 percent.

For ticket inquiries, call 635-10-01.

Pinoy Online

BANDERA'S Lorenzo Velasquez reads from a burning side kick from CAR's Mark Rice during their Thursday night bout in Baguio. Velasquez won, 1-0. ALEX BALTAZAR

Aranzanso, Marcial advance in Best of Best nat'l meet

NATIONAL TEAM MAINSTAY GIDEON Aranzanso and Central Cebu's Rachel Marcial duo and their respective rivals to advance to the semifinals of the senior women's division of the Samsung Best of the Best National Taekwondo Championships at the Ilocandia Intramuros Center in Malacañan yesterday.

Aranzanso, playing out of Ormoc, overwhelmed Illustrious Lanailla in their two-round clash via a 7-0 count, while Marcial flattened her 4-0 victory over Nancy Bernabeo to arrange a semis showdown with Jessica Salvadores of Mindanao to beat Princess Mish, 8-1.

Pedro Billote of DSP and Caryn Pelagio of BIT were disposing the last senior berth at presstime.

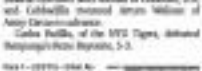
Earlier, Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert Aranzanso, PTA vice president Jong Chun Hong, Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, Charles Chui, vice president for information communication technology of Samsung Electronics Philippine Corp., and Jerry Lamon, Samsung general manager for marketing, graced the opening of the five-day event.

SEA Games gold medalists Japoy Lizardo and Arnaiz also delivered the ceremonial sportsmanship.

Janelle Mojica of FEU, Aaron Blancaflor of Ilagan-gano and Sonny Gabbuilla of San Beda also disposed of their respective rivals to gain berths in the quarterfinal round in the men's seniors division (-63).

Mojica defeated Arnold Quinoza of DSP, 2-0; Blancaflor defeated Reef Nicolas of Graduate, 2-0; and Gabbuilla outscored Seven Wallace of Army Caravan-adventure.

Carlos Padilla, of the MVP Tigers, defeated Batangas's Pedro Bayrante, 3-3.


BY TOP CHOICE

Milo 21K elims goes to Tarlac Sunday

THE 16TH NATIONAL MILO MARATHON goes to Tarlac City this Sunday with organizers expecting another huge field of more than 10,000 runners.

While the center piece event of the national mini-fun runs in the 21K, where the top three finishers carry berths to the national finals, most of the runners this weekend will be the 5K fun run in line with Milo's "eat then sports" theme.

High school and college students from the bulk of the 5K runners to help their respective schools win the interschool running competition and the biggest delegation contest.

Another feature of the elimination run, held in partnership with Sportsfest Park Hotel Manila, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, Department of Tourism and Powerbar, is the three dance competitions.

Bowen Montevilla and Ms. Elena Tenedero topped their respective 21K divisions last year, but proper chair Imelda Rodriguez predict an exciting race with some tested Metro Manila runners joining Sunday's race for the series P 750,000.

Tarlac City Mayor Alex Macapagal has been tasked to fire the starting gun at 6 a.m. in front of the Tarlac City Hall.

Milo Sports Events executive Bel Guanzon urged all runners should be at the starting area at least one hour before the start for the pre-race briefing.

SPORTSWATCH

Track and car show slated

THE 2008 SPORT TRADE & CLOTHING Show scores of Filipinos on Sept. 27 and will continue on Oct. 1 at the Bangkok Hall of SM Megamall in Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. The show has become a source for sports track and motor racing enthusiasts. Visitors will get a glimpse of classic muscle 4x4 sport trucks used for recreation in the off-road 4x4 racing series, super wheel racers, touring sedans, drag racing cars, customized cars, SUVs, club cars and vans. The show is organized and top organizers from three international car. Club, said this year's show promises to be even larger with over 20 trade exhibitors awarding the latest products, such as engine tuning parts, turbocharged cars, performance kits, suspension modifications and upgrades and cars and racing body kits.

Bank rewards top racers

FIGURE IN MAIN RACING DAY NAMAN-ang Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) Express after participating at the 60th University Athletic Association of the Philippines basketball tournament. In one of the major sponsors of the UAAP games, PSBank will reward the player on the court with P1,000 cash deposit certificate which they have to make a deposit account at any of PSBank's 136 branches. At season's end, the National "Mission Impossible" Player of the Season" gets a P50,000 cash reward and the Most Valuable Player receives P30,000.

60 lifts at Las Piñas today

LAS PIÑAS COLISEUM'S "MUSCLE MONDAY Crash Course" gets underway at 10 a.m. today with more than 50 lifters expected to join. The lifters who champion will be selected after every three lifts and win cash prizes. Jacinto Santos Perez and Mindy Ocampo, both veteran lifters, got 1 bonus of P1,000 for snagging the Lifter of the Month for 2007. The monthly meet, another feature Friday during Muscle Mondays are Saturday with exclusive from 20 members and members organized by participants. Said hosts Alex Tolosa and Rudy Dayanan: "It's amazing to see the growing interest in the sport of weights. All will be held on alternate Saturday. Muscle Monday will be held on alternate Saturday. Muscle Monday will be held on alternate Saturday. Muscle Monday

Bondoc five shots off in Taiwan golf

JOSE BONDOC CARDED A ONE-UNDER-PAR 71 to trail Chen Zhi-chiang of Taiwan by five strokes as Filipino golfers struggled at the start of the Acer International Amateur tournament at the Garden Golf Club in Taiwan yesterday.

Bondoc, a veteran intermediate and open hand of a six-man RP delegation in the four-day event, fought back from a run-over card at the fourside with a birdie on his 10 but settled for a three-of-par-for-two-of-the-way-for a 18-23 card.

Mike Alejandro blew an even-par record after nine holes, jotting on three bogeys coming in to finish with a 75, even as Enzo Baird followed over from a bad start and wound up with a 79.

Chen dazzled with a four-under-par 66 to pace the event's field by one shot over compatriot Chien Hsi-hung in the tournament that drew 108 players from 17 countries.

Mia Pavia, veteran of the lage-women in the US, recently graded for Asia as she stumbled with a six-over 78, nine strokes behind Ai Yeon-ryu, who shot the Koreans' charge with a 69. She stood a comfortable four strokes ahead of Taiwan.

Lou Roberto also wilted in the face of the opposition's solid start, shooting an eight-over 80 while Ed joined Bondoc on the 81.

The RP team's next in Taiwan is sponsored by International Container Terminal Services Inc.

RP batters keep title

THE PHILIPPINES BEAT SINGAPORE, 13-0, to their fifth title in twenty the recent 3rd BASE Asia Championship in Selangor Malaysia.

Earlier, the Philippines routed Chi Shu Malaysia, 23-1, and whacked Hai Thailand, 20-3, to claim their third straight crown. Singapore gained another crack at the Philippines by whacking Malaysia, 17-4, at the conclusion of the single-round, robin elimination format.

BY HOPES TO RUNGS: The Philippines' Enzo Sy (left), lead driver of Speedtech Asia, swings his robust Dallara-Oz wide on a corner of the Special International Circuit in Indonesia during Wednesday's time trials. Sy, who is running third in the race for the overall title, submitted the seventh fastest time. Closely trailing Sy in the pictures are Britain's James Winslow and Ireland's John O'Hara.

Peña a whisker off pace

SOLOR, INDONESIA—PUTTING HIS MISGIVINGS in China behind, Filipino star Enzo Peña clinched the second fastest time in practice Wednesday and looked ready to strike hard in rounds 14-15 of the Asian Formula Three series on the Sentul International Circuit here.

"Everything's fine," said the 31-year-old Peña of Team Goddard who clocked 1:26.912. "The engine is good, the set-up of the car is close to perfect. Now, all we need is to pull off a lot in the actual race."

Simon James Winslow of JF Motorsport gained the fastest time in ideal conditions, but a tenth of a second faster than Peña, while another Pinoy ace Enzo Sy, 18, of Speedtech Asia, struggled in the same challenge as that he wrestled in a rain in China last June.

Sy was seventh fastest in 1:28.202, just a whisker ahead of last year's Formula-Asia champion Marcos Marciapan of Indonesia. Finnish driver Heiti Kaivalainen of Team Goddard, making his series debut, clocked 1:27.417, while series leader Ali Jackson of Ireland's Asian Racing clocked 1:27.551.

Another debuting driver, Indian Rana Dastidaris in a Shell Helix Kinetic car, clocked 1:37.804, followed by Sachin Bamaniya of Multi Team Indonesia (1:28.252).

"My car gave eighth of a second behind when we are actually looking to be two seconds faster than the rest," said Sy, who is running third in the series with 108 points, 22 behind Jackson and just two behind Winslow.

Two more practice sessions will be held Wednesday afternoon, giving Sy's pit crew seven more time to fine-tune his racing machine. It's no one doesn't improve, Sy said he would be content with finishing today back up and help Peña clinch a podium finish.

Two races will be held Thursday, just after the race for pole position, with the races four-spaced one race the next two days.

Simon Dillon Barrington of Jo Motorsport clocked 1:26.562 in practice, followed by Filipino Christopher of BMW Indonesia (1:26.727), lady driver Gaby de la Motte of Speedtech Asia (1:26.945), John O'Hara of Team Racing (1:29.242) and Eamon Nolan-Lanning sports Michale Baumgartner of Team Goddard (1:29.686).

8 pairs gain Rush Smashfest finals

JEREMY RAMALO AND ANN MENDOZA HOLD TO MIGHT LANDS WITH INCIDENTS, 21-14, 21-15, at the Rathbone Club in Cross district, Quezon City, to lead seven other tandems into the finals of the Rush Unleash Unsatisfied 2006 during the weekend. Advancing with Ramalo-Mendoza in the final elimination leg were Pen Jhon Diego-Bonnet Blanco, who subdued Czar Anthony Marfil-Tunara, 21-18, 21-10; while Centro Marlon Jo Cabus and Sidney Reyes Jay Reyes, who trounced Mark Anthony Wan-January Manuel, 15-21, 21-16, at the Site Ground in Timog. James Sit Joy Tan subject Karen Arcanas-Natalie Sy, 21-12, 11-13, 21-15, at the ATC Ballroom in San Francisco del Monte to complete the qualifiers among Quezon City-based teams in the tournament sponsored by Rush Fitness Wear. The second legal elimination for Pasay-based teams was held Sunday with Master Edison Vidal and Eliel Espinosa trouncing Sir Mike Aang Gumabao, 21-14, 21-10, at the Manhattan Sports Hub. The other finalists were Mark Mayo-Vicky Mejia, who subdued Commander Lorenzo Jaime Cuneg, 21-7, 21-12, at the Arthurian EC, and Jo Master Vincent Ignacio, who topped Jun Sarmiento-Wilfred Fernandez, 19-21, 21-14, 21-17, at the Olympic Badminton Center in Ermita. Rush Support Ian Alderete announced Last Monday's Rush Mobster Recruit, 21-14, 15-13, 21-15, to emerge as two-second Last Qualifiers for the finals slated Sept. 30 at the Olympic Badminton Club in San Juan. Action resumes on Sept. 23 and 24 featuring clubs in Manila and Makati.

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SPORTS

US eyes Woods romp with Furyk

THE US hopes lie on the backs of Tiger Woods (left) and Jim Furyk, whose swing is like an "octopus falling off a tree." —AP

STRAFFAN, IRELAND—ON PAPER AND IN PERSON, THEY look nothing alike.

Tiger Woods is sheer power, from his 13 major championships and 63 titles worldwide to his acclaim as the richest athlete and one of the most recognizable faces in the world.

Jim Furyk is a US Open champion who grinds at his golf and is recognized only by his swing, which is not always a compliment. One analyst once described it as an octopus falling out of a tree.

Woods' opponent is the long ball.

Furyk is as accurate as one can be without being boring.

But they almost certainly will be partners in the Ryder Cup, a combination that makes sense only in theory.

"We have some similarities, we have some differences and we get along pretty well," Furyk said Tuesday. "We partnered well at the Presidents Cup. There's no promises, obviously, but hopefully they continue."

Woods and Furyk were together on The 8 Club during the first practice session leading to the start of Friday's matches, which was no surprise. US captain Tom Lehman sees how they played at the Presidents Cup in October—a 2-1-0 record in team play—and 'interests' in their request that they be partners again.

They become is crucial to an American team that has lost four of the last five times to the Ryder Cup.

For all his greatness in the majors, Woods has been nothing more than ordinary in the Ryder Cup. Even more surprising than his 7-2-11 record is that he rarely contributes anything on the opening day which sets the tone for three matches.

Woods is 1-7 on Friday at the Ryder Cup, taking an ugly streak of seven straight losses.

Furyk isn't much better.

He has shown his grit in singles by going winless in four Ryder Cups, usually against European strongest players, whether it's Pádraig Harrington or Sergio García. But he is 1-1-5 in team matches.

"You name your best players to go out there and play well the first day and make a statement," Furyk said.

That was hardly the case last time.

US captain Hal Sutton made his worst maneuver by teaming Woods with Phil Mickelson, creating some that make right up there with oil and water. They rarely spoke and lost both their matches as Europe went on to its largest victory ever.

Woods actually got his way but the world's No. 1 player had to wait a couple of years to get this request.

He was in the locker room at Pinehurst in 2005 going over along list of partners in the Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup that was about to grow even more.

"After know who El really low to play with" the Furyk," Woods said that day. "But can't believe enough this guy is."

He did get him on the '03 Presidents Cup and '04 Ryder Cup, and almost didn't get him last year in the Presidents Cup. US captain Jack Nicklaus considered putting Woods and Mickelson together again for the good of the event.

Instead, Woods got his man.

Furyk was injured that week with a pulled muscle in his rib, the pain so severe that he had to lie on his stomach with his shirt off while chewing pain-worked aspirin. Woods also was injured, getting his back and between shots, yet they pulled out a 3-and-2 victory. AP

Top Filipino bets fighting in World Muay Thai card

SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S FINEST FIGHTERS get to show their worth when they vie in the undercard of the World Muay Thai Council title fights slated Sept. 30 at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The local bets from the Muay Association of the Philippines will go up against foreign fighters to be brought in by former world champion Dr. Geoffrey Sin Ee, who heads Galaxie Inc., promoters of the GAB-licensed card.

The event is presented by Smart and also sponsored by 02/3TMs [Mo, Mountain], Stoke, Wearwade, Wonai, Bikotes, PAL, Landbank, San Miguel Corp., Energizer, Alivio, Quiksave, Sita Airline and media partners Manila Bulletin, Manila Standard-Today Sports Digest, Solar Sports and 880-CBN Metro Active.

Leading the 10 thugs is SEA Games muay thai gold medalist Pelmiel Diaz, 27, who also won in the 2005 World Muay Thai Championships.

Jaidi Lacson, 18, and Bevet Velasco, 26, both SEA Games silver medalists from Bongao, add muscle to the local lineup.

Lacson also won a bronze medal in the 3rd World Muay Championships earlier this year while Velasco won gold and silver medals in several ISMA and WMF world championships.

Completing the local cast are Ruben Sumalde, Diamando Dalipdip and Reynaldo Tenorante.

The 22-year-old Sumalde won in three WMC and three local tournaments last year, while Dalipdip, 26, is a WMC bronze medalist and has a gold and a bronze in a couple of pre-Asian indoor games tournaments last year. Tenorante, 26, picked up a bronze in last year's SEA Games.

PBL accepting draft applicants

By Jasmine W. Paya

THE PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL League, hoping to discover fresh talents after the exodus of its amateur stars, is now entertaining rookie applicants for its 2006 season opening tomorrow.

Deadline for submission is on Oct. 19 at the PBL office at the Sikatuna Tower in Ortigas, Pasig. The league will also conduct a rookie camp two days before the Oct. 12 draft.

"There are a lot of raw talents in the country so I'm confident we can find future stars not only for the league but for the country," said PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad.

Coming over to the pro league after productive stints in the PBL were LA Tenorio and Joseph Yeo of 2006 Unity Cup champion Harbour Centre, national Sanren and Kelly Williams of Magnolia Ice Cream and scores of veterans from powerhouse Pinkcast Patents.

Several UAAP standouts including point guard Jonas Villanueva of The Easters University and the slam-dunking JC Intal of Ateneo are among the top prospects in the rookie draft.

Trinidad, however, strongly encouraged players from the Visayas and Mindanao to join the draft.

The PBL season opener, billed as the Silver Cup, will kick off in November.

One of the teams badly needing fresh recruits is Harbour Centre, which is now looking out replacements for LA Tenorio and Joseph Yeo, who have both climbed to the pros. The Dux Masters are reportedly eyeing Intal.

"We are badly in need of stacking but dependable players in the model of Yeo and Tenorio," said Harbour Centre manager Trish Angeles. "With so many promising players from various leagues in the country, I'm confident we can find good players.

INTAL

BUSINESS
Editor Raul D. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

Thai coup jolts RP, Asian financial markets

ONLINE booking is a "force multiplier" for Seair, considering the airline's small sales network and limited advertising budget.

Online booking takes hold in RP aviation

By Dexter G. Lucas

[first of two parts]

EVER AN AVID LAMAR COMPETITOR and from high-ball roots, the former air hostess Kat Arana-Ad once or twice ran not to avoid.

In fact, Seair director and co-founder Allen Hicks explained that the airline, which focuses on on a niche for routes to local resort destinations, is ready to leverage its small size to keep cost on operating expenses.

Last June, Seair launched its online booking system, which aims to broaden its market reach without having to embark on a costly expansion of its physical branch network.

"We expect to reach P2 million worth of online bookings this month," Cruz said in an interview. She explained that Seair had the first client to set up P2 million in sales through its locally developed online booking system in its first three weeks of operations alone.

Called the airline reservation and ticketing system (ARTS), the service allows clients to book Seair flights in Busuanga and El Nido in Palawan and in Caticlan, which serves as the jump-off point to world-famous Boracay Island.

TRENDS

Others said the system allowed the airline, which has a fleet of only 13 turboprop aircraft, to reach out to potential clients worldwide.

"Only 21 percent of our online ticket sales come from the Philippines," he said. "But we come from clients who book online from the United States, Europe and around Asia.

Online booking is a "force multiplier" for Seair, considering the airline's small sales network and limited advertising budget.

"Often, it is hard for [the clients] to buy

more >> B2

Just a knee-jerk reaction, analysts say

By Doris C. Dumlao and Michelle V. Rivera

SINGAPORE—ASIAN FINANCIAL MARKETS were jolted yesterday by the military coup in Thailand but the early losses were limited and will likely stay that way unless the takeover sparks a violent response.

The peso retreated off four-year highs to hit an intra-day low of P45.35 before closing at P45.185 against the dollar yesterday against Tuesday's close of P45.12.81. Stocks were likewise down nearly 2 percent as investors found an excuse to take profit. (See story on the page.)

Before the Thai political crisis, the peso was nearing the new key battles at P45.00 and was even expected by some currency dealers to break out into the P45.01 level any time soon.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, who was attending the International Monetary Fund-World Bank meetings here, said: "I'm hoping that this is only a temporary intervention. Thailand had quite a number of coups and they've quickly responded to political concerns."

"Thailand has very sound macroeconomic fundamentals. Certainly I think Thailand will rebound and it will not adversely affect the situation in Asia," Teves said.

Dealers said stocks and the Thai baht took an early blow in a knee-jerk reaction after Thailand's embattled Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was ousted by the military.

However, the downturn was limited on the view the coup would actually end months of political uncertainty, which began earlier this year when Thaksin finally told Thai television giant Shin Corp. for a tax-free $1.9 billion.

The coup was led by Gen. Sonthi

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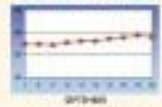
CURRENCIES

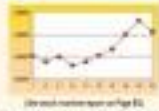


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P45.185 = $1

As of 8:30 a.m. Sept. 21, 2006

STOCK MARKET



Like stock market report on Page B2.

Thai coup drags stocks lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED

1,366 points lower yesterday as investors were jolted by news of a Thai military coup against Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, dealers said.

They said the record low fall was the worst affected by the news in the region given the country's vast history of military coups and threats against the current administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Reuters, dealers were off their lows and the crash suggest the impact will be brief, especially since the key 1,500 point level held after a record sell-off [more]

The composite index lost 82.9 points to 2,014.76 points after opening between 2,300.74 and 2,005.76.

AFP

School broke

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, or DepEd, got the biggest slice of this year's national budget at P1.12 billion.

That's about 22 percent of the total budget for 2006, which will be recycled in 2007, thanks to our beloved legislators who forgot to enact a new appropriations law.

But around P400 billion of the DepEd budget goes to salaries. The little that is left goes to repair/construct new classrooms and school books, for instance.

To think that some bright politicians are complaining that education is already getting too much of the national budget.

Where do they want the money to go instead—EDSA?

Let me remind you, learning that one already-rich neighbor in this part of the world are setting aside more than 20 percent of their national budgets for education.

Again, they are already rich! Er, they are setting aside much more for education than we do.

I think we have a big problem.

In Manila, they are already judged on the ease of our supposed "advantage" in skilled manpower – the English-speaking, easy-to-teach workers, for instance.

A recent survey by the Social Weather Stations showed that only 47 percent of our college graduates said they could converse in the international language of business, which happens to be English.

It is now a common: English, as our second language, is going out the window. Damn those Koreans can say "dosi si se dosi."

That's probably why the new administration thought it was time to press the panic button.

To me, the most telling sign of trouble was when Ghosn's top appointee – the English-speaking Emil Jurcic, a top management and finance man before he joined the government.

Ghosn would have been more right for a position in the economic team.

Word went around that Ghosn was actually wanted for that.

But it now seems that Lapus-ness that he would make a bigger impact in finance if he would decide to run for senator.

He could be right, for his appointment at DepEd told us that something was terribly wrong.

For instance, the business sector – certainly recently shut some 600,000 jobs are waiting in the private sector, but no applicants would meet the requirements.

To subtract the literate of education, we have to put more money into the system.

Despite the P112-billion budget for DepEd, our school system is still broke.

That's why according to Lapus, the closure of Glaxosmi is to set aside as much money for education as we set aside for debt service.

The school is still reason to discuss.

All right, thanks to this open administration's fiscal discipline, that year's debt service accounts for only 28 percent of the budget, down from 32 percent.

But that is still huge.

I mean, if only that was the DepEd budget, it would give an additional funding of at least P170 billion to education.

And so the hard work that is staring the hard-working Lapus-in-law is cut out for him.

But if DepEd does not have the money, how can Lapus arrest—and I say that he must do it quickly—the continuous drop in the quality of our education, both in the public and the private schools?

—

Apparently getting desperate to show the world a semblance of credibility in the near elections, which are barely eight months away, this once anonymous is ready to settle even for the problematic Isabel counting system of Mega Pacific.

Again, the elections are just around the corner.

Already, guys (they are saying that, given the name contained, it is almost impossible to recall an honest to goodness election anomalous system).

You see, the Mega Pacific contract only covered the machine-counting of the votes.

Everything else would have been to be done manually, from the filling up of the ballots to the final tallying of the result.

And we all know that those are the very phases of the election process where a lot of cheating can occur.

In other countries, such as the United States and Venezuela, the elections are fully automated.

But, our guys were brought down to earth when we balked at automatically going to the electronic tally-ing system.

Thus, the results can be determined almost as soon as the votes are cast.

That was the system being offered to the country by consultant-based company called Smartmatic, which specializes in electronic voting systems, having installed them in some 400 counties in the United States.

The other system up for consideration by our government is a co-advisory powered computers.

Some analysts believe it is a better choice because the computer can be doctored to public advantage.

Thai coup jolts RP . . .

From page B1

the Bonnyamghin, late Tuesday and has so far proved bloodless, barring a few minor incidents.

While the Thai stock market was closed as a result, the baht was lower, quoted at 37.735 to the dollar, down from the 37.305 level shortly before the tanks were ordered onto Bangkok's streets.

Chairman Bonnyamk, executive vice president for the Bank of Ayudhya in Bangkok, said local arena leaders were worried about the short-term impact but added that the government would end months of political uncertainty.

In the region, Tokyo closed down 3.98, with the coup dividing sentiment although dealers there said other factors, such as concerns over the outlook for US interest rates, were also at work and probably more important. In late trade here, the market was down 4.68 percent and Kuala Lumpur fell 0.45 percent.

Aside from the baht and the peso, the currencies of other Asian countries hardly felt by the 1997 regional turmoil—the Malaysian ringgit, Indonesian rupiah and the Singapore dollar were modified across the board yesterday.

Amy Gazenglong, a senior economist at ING Bank based here, said that Thai crisis would not weigh down on other regions.

"Our view here is that the other Asian economies, including the Philippines and Indonesia, are on a sound footing, having gone into their consolidation and they now have a stronger ability to withstand outside shocks," Gazenglong said.

Brunei's Cheng, a currency strategist at think tank Asia-Pacific Market based here, said the inflation in Asian financial markets yesterday was not a knee-jerk reaction.

"A lot of people think that this will die down and become a non-issue particularly in the Thai case. The coup was peaceful and the fact that they are willing to reassure a democratic process sends a positive signal. But very soon, things will get back to normal," he said.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas also allayed concerns that the political turbulence in Thailand would have adverse repercussions on the financial market in the Philippines, saying the country's strong macroeconomic fundamentals make it resilient to external shocks.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. Jr. commented that Asian economies at present were more than capable to weather external disturbances than they were before the Asian financial crisis in 1997 because of the reforms implemented over the years. With a report from AFP

Standing out: An alternative manpower cooperative

THE RULE OF MANPOWER CO-OPS AS A channel for outsourcing has recently brewed controversy due to accusations of labor malpractices. Job applicants and companies have been told to beware of such co-ops while allegations of deceit and exploitation are being investigated. Among the points of contention is the classification of workers as self-employed persons, which then deprives them of the statutory benefits to which they would otherwise be entitled.

The arguments raised against manpower co-ops appear to have merit for the most part. It is these same arguments, however, that make one co-op stand out as one of the best outsourcing channels in the market today: Staff Search Asia Service Cooperative (SSA).

SSA is in the business of job contracting and manpower services. Since 2001, the co-op has created thousands of jobs, and now serves over 30 reputable client companies. SSA was founded on the advocacy of giving secure, meaningful employment to Filipinos, especially those who cannot be absorbed by existing businesses for regular employment.

Aside from providing decent, long-term jobs, SSA protects the welfare and promotes the holistic development of its member-workers by offering enterprise co-ownership and facilitating the equitable distribution of wealth. These are in stark contrast to the practices of traditional manpower agencies or job contractors.

SSA is strongly committed to safeguarding the interests of its member-workers and clients. In light of this, the co-op utilizes an alternative model that allows it to operate in a manner that is not only legally safe, but also ethically and morally sound. Consider the following:

SSA is a service co-op duly registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA). SSA was organized in accordance with the provisions of R.A. 6938 (Cooperative Code of the Philippines), which authorizes the establishment of co-ops engaged in "labor...and other services". Its member-workers enjoy the rights and privileges afforded them by law, including dividends and patronage refund.

SSA believes in the existence of a bilateral relationship involving the co-op, its member-workers, and its clients. SSA does not espouse self-employment for its member-workers. All professional and non-professional member-workers of SSA are employees of the co-op. A contract exists between the co-op and each client, as well as between the co-op and each member-worker.

SSA is registered with the Department of Labor and Employment under Department Order No. 18-02 (Series of 2002). SSA is a legitimate job contractor, having substantial capital to perform the services required of it, as well as the right to control the performance of its member-workers. By virtue of such registration, clients are assured that they are not dealing with a labor-only contractor.

SSA is licensed as a Private Recruitment and Placement Agency (PRPA). SSA is authorized to undertake recruitment and placement activities.

SSA ensures that its employees receive all statutory benefits. SSA is a member of the Social Security System (SSS), the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), and the Pag-Ibig Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig), and makes certain that all contributions are remitted promptly. SSA also grants five-day incentive leaves to qualified employees.

SSA imposes upon its member-workers the withholding tax rates applicable to employees. SSA withholds from its member-workers the taxes due from employees and remits such promptly to the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

SSA has been certified tax-exempt by the BIR. The BIR recognizes that SSA is an entity exempt from tax, including VAT. SSA was able to qualify for exemption by ensuring that none of its members, whether professional or non-professional, hold more share capital than the given maximum limit. The corollary benefit is that all members, regardless of rank, can share equally in the dividends of the co-op.

SSA undertakes only management and governance practices that are lawful, ethical, and moral. SSA believes that being one with the law constitutes a majority, and thus complies accordingly. The co-op also upholds the principle of transparency in all dealings with its member-workers, client companies, and other stakeholders.

Clearly, SSA is a manpower co-op that operates fully within the bounds of the law.

Staff Search Asia Service Cooperative may be contacted via telephone number (63 2) 882 3616 or e-mail address staff_search_asia@yahoo.com.

Online booking . . .

From page B1

(tickets) from anywhere else," Gitole said of the new booking option.

He admitted, however, that the local exploration in online and/or bookings was not a breakthrough, but in fact, a reluctant pronounced by another would-be giant airline.

"More and more people in the Philippines are buying (airline tickets) over the Internet because of Cebu Pacific," Gitole said.

Indeed because of its low-cost strategy, soaring fuel prices and technology was a logical choice for Cebu-based-owned Cebu Pacific Air as it struggled to survive a strike in an industry dominated by long-time monopoly Philippine Airlines (PAL).

The scheme proved so successful that the airline's services crashed on several occasions when the site was bare pressure were allowed to the public online.

Cebu Pacific's business model states, however, that it could not match PAL-initiated online-wide branch network but offer travel agents the same level of commission the Lucio Tan-owned airline did for packing in tickets to clients.

"It is important for us to 'reverse engineer our operations," Cebu Pacific marketing director Candice Iyog said in an earlier interview. "In so to effectively do this, early bookings are important, including online bookings."

Nowadays, the bulk of Cebu Pacific clients who book online still turn to crowded ticket booths to pick up their tickets. Nonetheless, as clients have set to warm up to the online payment systems offered on its website.

At present, Iyog said "between 12 and 15 percent" of Cebu Pacific flyers book their flights online. The airline obviously wants more of its clients to book online, as this will allow it to reduce selling costs further.

Nonetheless, however, jumping onto the online booking bandwagon with as much gusto as Silkair and Cebu Pacific, at one time was in that Asian giants, which also has a basic online booking facility, (To be continued)

Zobel holding firm sells 6.9% stake in Ayala Corp. for ₱10.6B

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

BERMAC IPO... THE HOLDING firm of the Zobel family sold its 6.9-percent stake in Ayala Corp. for P900 billion ($19 million) to unnamed foreign investment funds.

Bermac sold 23.44 million shares at P405 apiece through a special block sale at the Philippine Stock Exchange handled by the Deutsche Bank group.

Ayala closed at P455 a share, down 4 percent from its seven-year high of P477.50 last Sept. 19, after investors took profits on blue chips yesterday.

At P455.50, Ayala's price traded 32 percent higher from its 2005 closing price of P345 a share. The sum also the stock's highest level since it closed at P494.75 on May 30, 1997.

Wintershalls anti-rejection) yesterday that Asian investors were said to have been the most prominent with regard to the number of orders for Ayala's shares, but in terms of "significant" orders, these were widely spread between Asia, Europe and the United States.

"I added that at least 30 investors were believed to have participated in the deal. No orders were pulled out as a result of the events in Thailand, according to people familiar with the offering, the online edition reported.

After the sale, Bermac, which is chaired by Ayala patriarch Jaime Zobel de Ayala, retained majority of the voting interest with 51 percent, down from 58 percent before the deal.

Ayala said in a separate statement sent to the bourse that the shares were sold to "various investor groups at a discount of 5.2 percent" using the company's weighted average for the last 30 trading days.

Morrison is a locally-owned company established in 1980 by the late Ayala Corp. matriarch Mercedes McMicking and her late husband, Col. Joseph McMicking.

Morrison is now owned by the present generation of the Zobel de Ayala with brothers and Ayala executives Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II (Ayala chair and chief executive officer) and Fernando Zobel de Ayala (Ayala president and chief operating officer) sharing the six-member post in Bermac.

Mercedes, who died in September, 2003, left behind her husband, Jaime Zobel de Ayala (seven children, including Jaime Augusto and Fernando) and the late Enrique Zobel (Chip) and Mercedes). The statements said that the group would assure that Bermac and Ayala Corp. would continue to be run by the father and twin sons of Jaime, Jaime Augusto and Fernando.

Mercedes' passing has triggered widespread speculation that Ayala Corp. has become ripe for a leaderless dealmaker and vulnerable to corporate raiders.

In a statement yesterday, however, Zobel assured all Ayala shareholders that the sale by Bermac of its 6.9-percent stake in Ayala would not result in any change in the present structure of the more than 178-year-old company.

Tax perks seen swaying Shell to expand

By Abigail L. Ho

OIL REFINERY PILIPINAS SHELL PETROLEUM Corp. continues to express concern about the local investment environment, one factor that is considering in making a final decision on whether to expand its operations here or to shut down its refinery.

Coming from various meetings in Europe, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said officials from Shell parent firm Royal Dutch Shell Plc still had concerns regarding the current investment climate in the downstream oil sector.

"What they want is for there to enforce that, were made available at the time they came in to still be available throughout the life of their investment," he said.

"And that is expected considering that investment on huge, and the potential cost...for instance, of a refinery expansion will be at a minimum of $1 billion to $1.5 billion," he added.

Lotilla said that Shell officials indicated that the review of its Philippine operations would be completed by the end of the year or early 2007.

The result of the review would determine whether Shell would remain an oil refiner in the country or just become a finished product importer like Chevron Philippines Inc. (formerly Caltex), which closed down its refinery in late 2003.

In an earlier interview, Shell country chair Edgar Chua said a tariff differential could be a **big help from the government. This, however** was not a guarantee for the retention of the Shell refinery here or for additional investments.

"But it will be up to the government. We gave the (Department of Energy) a position paper. We need some support," he added.

Lotilla had earlier said that the government was willing to explore the possibility of instituting some sort of tariff differential between refinery and pure importers.

However, before doing so, he said a careful study of the legal implications of such a move had to be done, particularly as the first downstream oil deregulation law was struck down by the Supreme Court because of such a provision.

The Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association, for its part, had said it would oppose any move to put in place a **tariff differential between crude and refined** petroleum products.

US firm eyes ethanol plant

By Christine A. Saplaco

AMERICAN FIRM THE EAST BIOFUELS LLC has joined the growing list of investors interested in the country's bio-ethanol industry, the Bajac-Bajac Investment Authority said.

The East Biofuels LLC plans an integrated ethanol facility in Pampanga that may cost at least P1 billion in initial investments, according to SBA Administrator James Christopher Lobregat in an interview last Tuesday.

Aside from the East Biofuels, other interested investors include Japan's Marubeni Corp., and the Toyota Group, which visited the SBA to ask if the Department of Agriculture's authorized agency could make initial feasibility studies on the project.

Lobregat said these companies were encouraged by the developments in British Petroleum and Shell's construction of a P1.5-billion ethanol

Far East Biofuels plans facility in Pampanga

plant in Bataan.

The proposed plant would have a production capacity of 350,000 liters a day, bigger than the plant Bioenergy is building in partnership with the National Development Corp. in San Carlos City in Negros Occidental province.

Lobregat, also, appealed to Congress for the immediate approval of measures that will boost the development and use of indigenous energy sources like ethanol, bio-diesel and compressed natural gas and lessen our dependence on imported oil.

Pending in both houses of Congress is the proposed "Bio-Ethanol Fuel Act of 2005" that aims to encourage the commercial production of ethanol as alternative fuel.

Ethanol is alcohol extracted from crops like sugarcane, cola, cassava, potato, sorghum, barley and wheat. Ethanol is now widely used in Brazil, the United States, Colombia and in lower degrees in China, India, Japan and Thailand as a blending component for gasoline.

The ratio is usually 10 percent ethanol and 90 percent unleaded gasoline, called the E-10 blend.

There is also an E-85 blend containing 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent unleaded gasoline which can be used in existing fuel.

Under the proposed Bio-Ethanol Fuel Act, promoters of this indigenous fuel will be given attractive incentives.

The bill includes an entity 1 percent the tariff duty on the importation of equipment, machinery and inputs for 10 years.

Aboitiz unit sells 18M treasury shares for P91M

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

ABOITIZ EQUITY VENTURES, THE INvestment arm of the Aboitiz group, yesterday sold 391 million worth of treasury shares.

The sale was seen as part of the group's plan to beef up its war chest as it prepares to bid for big power assets set to be privatized.

AEV sold 18-million treasury shares yesterday at P5.10 a piece, or at its total P88 million treasury stock.

"There has been increased demand for shares. The fundamentals of the Philippines look a lot better now with the fiscal deficit under control, tax collections occurring and low interest rates. People tend to put their money in stocks," AEV executive vice president and chief operating officer Erramon Aboitiz said in a phone interview.

Aboitiz said the sale of treasury shares would help fund AEV's proposed power investments.

He said AEV has enough funds to handle all its future acquisitions through the sale of its 800-million treasury shares and existing cash facilities.

AEV is interested in the government's planned auction of the 360-megawatt Magat hydropower plant in the northern province of Isabela and the 600-megawatt coal-fired Mauban plant in Zambales.

AEV's recent sale will also help fund its 144-Silicon Silvalan hydropower project in Davao del Sur.

The Aboitiz group's Hedcor Silvalan Inc. will put up five independent run-by-the-power generation projects with installed capacities of 16 and 26 megawatts, respectively.

Nograles bucks Holcim perks

By Rommel W. Bonifacio

A LAWMAKER HAS URGED THE BOARD OF Investments to hold back incentives for Holcim Philippines Inc.'s P1 billion rehabilitation project for its cement factory in Davao City, saying the facility was polluting the area.

Majority Floor Leader Prospero C. Nograles, who represents the first district of Davao City, said the plant that the firm wanted to revamp was "has not complied with world-class environmental standards."

In a letter to BOI Managing Head Elmer C. Bolinsador dated Sept. 5, Nograles said Holcim's plant had become a health hazard in the surrounding communities.

"I am aware and concerned (about) numerous reports of thick cement dust polluting what used to be clean and breathable air in the area, which has caused several health problems among the residents of Davao," the letter said.

When reached by reporters, Holcim senior vice president Joselito Perez said company officials could not give any since they have not seen Nograles' letter.

Perez said Holcim was only asking from BOI the duty-free importation of capital goods rather than the full set of incentives.

Projects registered with BOI are entitled to tax holidays of up to six years aside from other fiscal and non-fiscal perks.

Earlier this month, the Switzerland-based firm announced it would invest up to P1 billion over the next 12 months to bring its manufacturing facility in Davao City back to full operating capacity by mid-2007.

Aside from the plant, Holcim operates integrated facilities in a Davao, Misamis Oriental and Bataan, where the firm has an extra production unit that could boost its 800,000 tons of cement yearly, but which has been shut down since 1998.

The month's announcement came after the collapse of a storage silo earlier this year damaged the factory's main production line.

Holcim officials had said the investment was being made despite the prevailing pessimism over security in the industry, which they said showed the firm's optimism in the prospects of the local economy.

Breaktime

From page B1

schools after the elections.

Sure, true, but I have only one question: Can the PGA really do the job?

***

Word is going around that our favorite international playboy enjoys the protection of burly bodyguards who go around with him even in important business gatherings, such as the recent appreciation party of McGeorge for its efficiency.

The bodyguards looked like they had military or police training.

Our sources assure that they recognized the bodyguards as coming from some military outfit—perhaps the elite Special Action Forces.

Just as an aside, this core administration of discussing already installed the military men assigned to secure the safety of former President Corazon Aquino.

In that sense, I say that our handsome idol of the mercenary sector is lucky.

But just how popular is this guy among his peers that he thinks he needs such protection?

A study goes that, in one of the most exclusive sports clubs in the country, in which our hero used to be a member of the board, he once had a "gentlemen's agreement" with a fellow director.

Well, our handsome devil already missed several board meetings, and under the rules, he would have to resign.

He simply did not want to quit.

One of the board members, who was said to be a good friend of our hero as the son of Dean shared a passion for expensive cars, offered to resign with him.

It was a face-saving way to resolve the issue, and for the club to become accreditation.

After the gentlemen's agreement in place, the friend resigned from the board.

Some what? The handsome remaining members may did not.

That kind of popular?

Listed firms' earnings up 30%

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE COMBINED EARNINGS OF companies listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) grew by 30.7 percent to P190.6 billion in the first half of 2006 from P82.21 billion in the same period last year.

PSE president Francis Lim said the data was based on the unaudited financial statements of 231 listed companies that had submitted financial reports to the exchange as of Sept. 18.

"The impressive income performance of the listed companies and firms' perceptions that the economy stands on a solid ground, despite the challenging political environment here and abroad," Lim noted.

Lim also said that from January to June 15th 2006, stock prices—as tracked by the PSEi—rose 4 percent to 2,178.79 points from 2,096.09 as of end-2005. The broader All-Shares index gained 7.6 percent in the same period.

On Wednesday the PSEi closed at 2,312.76 points, or 10.9 percent higher than the end-2005 level. Similarly, the All Shares index rose by 10.7 percent.

"Listed companies are piling up earnings at a clip faster than the pace of increase of their stock prices," Lim said. "Certainly, any discerning investor will take the information as one to buy listed stocks."

Lim said the combined gross revenue of the listed companies from January to June were up by 24.7 percent to P980.17 billion from P814.96 billion a year earlier.

He also said that, on the average, all industry groups enjoyed higher earnings, including those in the small- and medium-sized enterprises (SME) board.

All sectors enjoyed double digit growth in income, except for the services sector, which garnered 6.6 percent expansion in earnings. But listed companies in the services sector accounted for the biggest share of the income pie, as their combined net profit last year hit P27.67 billion from P26.13 billion a year earlier, Lim added.

Companies in the SME board enjoyed the best rate of increase in earnings at 503 percent as they turned around operations and posted combined earnings of P7.46 billion after suffering P1.48 billion in total losses for the same six-month period last year.

The mining and oil sector enjoyed the highest income growth rate for the combined profit of companies in this sector reached P1.68 billion during the first half, or 93.6 percent higher than the P1.03 billion for the same period last year.

My stock pick for 2007-2008

TODAY IS NOT MY NORMAL WRITING day but I came across an article so compelling that I couldn't wait until Tuesday to share tomorrow prompts me.

The article published by ABG Sundal Collier is in Norwegian and it is an in-depth study of Crew Gold, coincidentally but understandably by 69 percent. Members of the board, shareholders (BOD), have enough degrees to fill a dictionary. Their name Knut Nesstossi, Bo Thue Guo, Angie Jukanti (her targets name is South Africa), Arkhamburger and Merrill Lynch. However, this article is not about Crew, except to say that the company is delivering what it promises, and is highly regarded. Its Canadian brethren enjoy the stock. Our hero is as a BUY, one as a STRONG BUY. This is important because stockbroker is an important factor to what follows.

The stock I wish to write about is tiger, more referred to as Mundo. Mr. Arkangel, Hehe Ventura, who heads our research department, did most of the analysis, but my own observations have since been incorporated. Apex got off to a bad start when it got itself suspended for not filing reports on time. However, it confirmed in a PSE disclosure that the first phase of mining had started and that the 1,000 ton per day plant would be operational by the beginning of the second quarter, or calendar, as presented.

Mr. Bearbull

Bear Necessities

Mine Editor the Philippines. In Sal Batac, the underground mines of Apex in Compostela Valley are full of treasures. There are no less than 13 veins but, as far, only four have been explored and the rest remain untouched and indicated resources of 1.4 million ounces of gold, with room for more to take years of production at 200,000 ounces in 2008. Additional drilling throughout 2007 is expected to dramatically increase the total from 3 million ounces. Apex's average grade is 0.40 ounce of gold per ton. There are also 2 ounces of silver for every ounce of gold plus an undercurrent amount of copper.

Miners love narrow veins, rather like myself, but these can be mined and one of the main problem dilution but narrow veins are in other countries. The one mine of Apex will use to skewer until near year but the mine has been in existence for over 20 years and experience in the Subanon mine in Greenland will greatly assist the company in mining clean veins, otherwise, it would all be in vain. There are many 1-kilometer long and tall 1.5 converge into chamber and this is a horseshoe-type mined. This leads to the possibility of open pit mining, which would be cheaper to do, even though it's only a big. The underground mine can be mined to 3 or 4 meters since the ores zones are only of reasonably low quality compared to the ores veins.

There are a few gold/copper deposits, including one that was estimated by the geologists owners to contain as much as 1 million ounces of gold. The company is so prosperous, plied with the immediate task on hand that exploration is of the presumably enormous project will have to wait until 2007. But by the end of next year, upon single processing plants on site, I posit the plant for 100 tph process (up to 4,000 tons of ore per day and 300, 000 ounces of gold production). This would make it an extremely valuable asset and some major copper exploration companies have shown interest in acquiring a piece of the action.

From here on, Hehe holds the magic but I listen to figures are non-conservative, and even he agrees. He bases his calculations on gold at $570 investors, silver at $10 investors, a recovery rate of only 90 percent (I am working to 85 percent) and a production cost of $320 (this will fall to $300 by 2008). He assumes full operation use of 32 percent (no there are 850 million in reserve carried forward). On this basis, the projected profit for 2007 is P1.45 billion, giving earnings per share at P1.05 and a price/earnings ratio of 3.6. By 2008, his projection is P1.95 billion, equal to earnings per share of P1.56 and a price/earnings ratio of 1.8. In other countries, the P/E ratios range from 8 to 14 but Mr. Market has assessed a P/E of only 5, or just with skyscrapers, whatever this is. Every 1-percent change in the gold price means a movement of 10 percent.

So has we came realize the 2007 to P$1.31 but if Apex can meet its 40 ounces of gold equivalent earlier, this has to P1.875. In case you think he has gone overboard, ABG, who did the study, stated that the contribution of Masara to Canada net asset value was 3.8 Norwegian krone. In case you do not feel like with the exchange rate, this equals P25.80. A Canadian co-company, Apex Investors, did a valuation into May on more than 10 and came up with P34.56. And Baron Secretary that some out with a mind boggling 8.1 krone, equates P53? They can have my shares.

Once Apex starts making good profits, it is likely to be included in the Phisix. Then foreign brokers would cover it and institutional funds would align their portfolios to include it. We rate the shares a STRONG BUY and expect the price to reach double digits by the end of next year. It is the most exciting stock since PAL, which has stalled. Here they have the same letters in their symbols.

arthurbull@hotmail.com

SM to open ₱1-B mall in Lipa City

MALL OPERATOR SM PRIME HOLDINGS Inc., banking on the growth prospects in Batangas, is opening a P1 billion mall in Lipa City on Sept. 22.

SM City Lipa will be the second SM Prime mall in the province. The first is in Batangas City.

Occupying 130,000 square meters of land, the new mall has a gross floor area of 77,000 square meters, the company said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

SM Prime president Hans Sy said that Batangas is an important location for SM Malls considering its large and progressive population base, sea ports, rich marine resources, and its relative proximity to Metro Manila.

"The growth mall for one of the fastest among the key provinces in the country and we would like to be a bigger part of this growth," Sy said.

"Lipa is a bustling city and is one of only three key cities in Batangas. We are happy to make it a part of the still growing family of SM Prime malls," Sy added.

Lipa City has a population of nearly 300,000 and houses of numerous universities such as Western Mindanao and Mindoro. More importantly, it is a major commercial, educational and industrial destination.

The development of the retail sector in the province will be influenced by the growing BPO activity, property consultant CB Richard Ellis is currently said in a study. Elizabeth L. Sanchez

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BUSINESS

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By Michelle V. Rarus

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT collected P6.6 billion in dividends from state-owned firms in the first eight months of the year, surpassing the full-year collection last year.

In 2005, dividends turned in by government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government financial institutions (GFIs) hit P5.63 billion.

Data from the Bureau of the Treasury showed that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas had remitted the biggest dividends in the January to August period at P3.736 billion.

The other major dividends contribution to the government during the period were: The Philippine Ports Authority, P1.64 billion; Development Bank of the Philippines, P726 million; Land Bank of the Philippines, P607 million; Philippine Economic Zone Authority, P384 million, and Philippine National Oil Co., P306 million.

Cebu Ports Authority turned in P181 million; Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., P62 million; Mactan Cebu International Airport Authority, P47 million, and Philippine Retirement Authority, P38 million.

Under their respective charters, GOCCs and GFIs are required to remit at least 50 percent of their income to the national government as dividends.

Last year, Finance Secretary Margarita Teves made a call on listing state-owned firms to improve their financial performance to boost their dependence on the national government. He also called on earning GOCCs and GFIs to increase their dividend contributions to help strengthen the country's fiscal position.

The Department of Finance is working on the establishment of a scorecard system for the evaluation of the performance of GOCCs and GFIs in fulfilling their mandates and generating their revenues.

Under the planned system, state-owned firms that will perform well may be given incentives. Those that will fail to meet their objectives may face "rationalization."

National Treasurer Omar Cruz earlier said he will be hard-nosed in monitoring of GOCCs and GFIs to increase dividend collection.

In the first eight months of the year, the BTr collected P46.5 billion worth of investment taxes from dividends, BIR revenues also come from earnings from its investments in foreign-denominated securities.

Ro-Ro system cuts transport cost by 45%—Yap

By Nica T. Chicundoy

THE ROLL-ON ROLL-OFF (RO-RO) SYSTEM in the so-called western coastal highway or Western Seaboard has cut transportation costs in the service areas by 45 percent and triggered tourism and commercial growth in the surrounding areas, according to a report by Presidential Management Staff chief Isidro Tap, who also chairs the government's Task Force on Infrastructure Monitoring.

The government established the Batangas-Calapan, Ocean-Caticlan, Iloilo-Bacolod and Dumaguete-Cagayan Ro-Ro facilities in the Western Seaboard in 2003. A copy of the report showed that two years after the facilities were opened, the number of shipping operators in the area, including the national, increased. It said only the Batangas-Calapan route still had one operator as of last year.

Citing a 2006 study on the economic impact of the Ro-Ro projects, Yap's report showed that the project had reduced transport cost by 45 percent. Shortage fares, it added, went down by 52 percent. This was because people used to have no choice but to ride flat cards between provinces and the fare was about P220 per person. Ro-Ro fares, meanwhile, averaged as only P120, resulting in average savings of P70 or 32 percent of the old fare.

The largest savings were seen in the shipment of motorcycles from Metro Manila to the provinces. A shipment of 50 motorcycles used to cost P95,000 via traditional shipping, but deliveries using the Ro-Ro system cost only P50,000 or 47 percent cheaper.

Data from the Department of Tourism showed that the Ro-Ro system had also boosted domestic tourism. Dumaguete recorded an 8-percent jump to reach arrivals from 116,000 in 2000 to 147,000 in 2003. Bacolod posted an 11-percent increase from 260,000 arrivals in 2003 to 228,000 in 2005, while Caticlan saw a 47-percent hike from 215,000 to 1081,000. Iloilo recorded a 77-percent jump in arrivals in the same 2-year period from 239,000 to 499,000.

The biggest surge was seen in Dapitan, where only five tourists went prior to the introduction of the Ro-Ro system. The city welcomed 6,000 tourists in 2004, which grew to 33,000 in 2005, or a 310-percent increase.

The report also noted increased number of ship calls, as well as the mushrooming of Internet cafes, small hotels, eateries, bus operators, beach resorts and other business establishments in areas surrounding the Ro-Ro ports.

As for the continued expansion of the Ro-Ro routes, Yap said in a statement that many small towns would be attached to the Western Seaboard and the Bicol-era Eastern Seaboard. A coastal highway is also in the works, and eventually the three will be interlinked to further facilitate travel all over the country.

SEC urged to issue dealer's license to CAP

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

A MAKATI REGIONAL TRIAL COURT JUDGE has urged the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to issue a dealer's license to College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. (CAP) and to impose certain conditions that the company should meet to be able to keep its license, and business sources who were present at a closed-door court meeting on Tuesday.

This, however, was opposed by Sec. Ahmad A. Bonoan II who said in a statement that such a move could create bigger problems for future plan holders.

CAP's dealer's license was suspended in 2004.

SEC lawyers present at the closed door meeting were supposed to furnish 140-Judge Cesar Untalan a written feedback from the commission on how about the matter when the commissioners meet today.

The conditions have yet to be set and these would also depend on whether the commission en banc would agree to the court's suggestion.

In a related development, CAP said it continue to set last-ditch story that the SEC's continuous on its rehabilitation plan were hinged on a liquidation scenario.

"Under the SEC's assumption, which was based on the liquidation of the company, each plan holder will get only P0.17 per P1.00. Under CAP's rehabilitation scenario, each plan holder will get his P1.00 plus (plus) redemption," CAP said.

The pre-need company also said the valuation of its assets was too biased.

"The projection represents the company's net share in the redevelopment of the assets, as redressed in the rehabilitation plan," the company said. It said it had redevelopment plans for its buildings in Cebu, Davao, Cebu, Iloilo, Bacolod, Pampanga and Butuan.

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LIFESTYLE
Editor Cholo Bunal-Ferrares

Much like wine, good olive oil should be balanced, with body, and round in flavor

Striking oil

WITH OLIVE OIL, FOOD curses barter, we all agree, but there are nagging questions like... Are there substitutes? And why is it so expensive?

Insofar as substitutes are concerned, our oil can be used in its place but, by doing so, you relegate this to the status of the only good olive oil brings—its characters, in flavor.

Why is it expensive? Simply put, quality comes at a price and, unfortunately, quite frustrating, peace, joy and happiness, many of the best things in life aren't free, especially when we speak of premium ingredients!

Oily facts

Here are some interesting olive oil facts that I gathered with the help of the Spanish Embassy, the Spanish Commerce and Government Office, Olivo Toledo, Andrea and the Spanish Institute for Foreign Trade. But all the help and for the purely altruist as well, I'm not getting paid!

- Olive oil is the juice of the olive.
- It is the only oil commonly found in the market that is extracted from a fresh fruit, without the use of solvents.
- It is considered one of the healthiest oils, being high in monounsaturated fatty acids, vitamin E, natural antioxidants and other nutrients.
- Growth of the olive tree is slow. The first fruit crop comes 5-10 years after planting and maximum maturity only after 20 years. Maximum yield occurs between the age of 35-150, after which the yield becomes irregular.
- Flowering starts in the spring and, out of the many flowers, only 1-3 percent will turn into olives. The fruit gradually changes color from light green to reddish purple. Once black in a process called *envero*, during which the oil content increases.
- It takes 4-5 kilos of olives to make a liter of oil. Harvesting begins late autumn or early winter.
- Spain is the largest producer/exporter of olive oil (about over 300 olive varieties grow). Thus the wide range of flavors and aromas of Spanish oils. Recently, organic cultivation has become popular.
- When the Arabs came to Spain, they promoted the cultivation and perfected the extraction of oil. The Spanish word *aceite* comes from the Arabic word *al-zait*, meaning olive juice.
- The aromas, flavors and colors of olive oil vary depending on the olive varieties and the conditions of cultivation.
- In Spain and in Europe, olive oil tasting has become a craze. In fact, the same tasting points for wine are used for olive oil.
- Much like wine, good olive oil should be balanced, with body, round in flavor that drives up in the mouth, revitalizes the senses buttery, natural, pungent, bitter, etc. (for example).
- Tasting is necessary to appreciate the character and personality of an olive oil. A single olive tree may produce different types of oil depending on the season, weather conditions for the year, etc. The same variety may also produce different oils depending on soil conditions, microclimates and altitude.
- Tasters use blue tinted glasses to mask the color in order to not affect quality. A little is poured into the tip of the tongue then gradually moved around the palate, then down the throat. In between olive oil tastings, pieces of apples or bread are eaten to cleanse the palate.
- The aroma of olive oil is at best when heated slightly. In tasting sessions, the glass is heated and the cover breathes in the aromas to

Vegetable Chips a Spanish Olive Oil

With a knife or a mandoline, slice vegetables thinly (carrots, potatoes, zucchini, eggplants, beets, artichokes, sweet potatoes or sun-kissed greens such as spinach, pickup beans. You could even try basil leaves.

Heat olive oil to 350°F deep fry vegetables, drain on paper towels, season with salt if you wish, serve immediately, the leafy greens, oil temperature must be 300°F.

Here's to my new class schedule: Sept. 21—Royal Indian Cuisine (1 till noon); Sept. 23—Acupuncture and Bars (all noon) as well as Morning Stories for Christmas (Holiday Cooking Classes For Household Cooks/Helpers), Entertaining for the Holidays (The Catering Basics—for caterers and those who love to entertain); Things To Make, Give or Sell this Christmas. Call 0299296/8355302.

E-mail the author at inquirer@inquirer.com.ph

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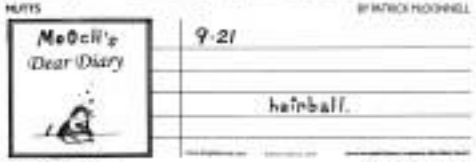

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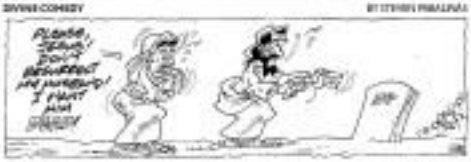

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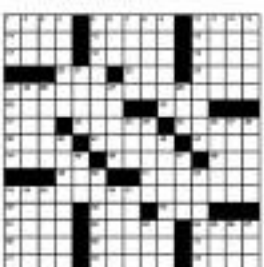

By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, Ind.

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Close

	8							6
3	6	9					4	
			7			5		
			5			3		
	2			4			8	
		6			2			
		2			9			
	7					1	2	8
5							3	

Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	1	8	7	5	2	9	4	6
4	5	6	3	9	8	7	1	2
9	7	2	6	1	4	3	5	8
7	8	1	2	3	9	4	6	5
6	2	3	4	8	5	1	9	7
5	9	4	1	6	7	2	3	1
8	3	9	5	7	6	8	2	4
2	6	7	8	4	1	5	8	9
1	4	5	9	2	3	6	7	3

Difficulty Level ★★★

CHEF Rocco removes the chicken cutlets with pepper

THE CHEF dredges the chicken in flour

SHRIMP and Noodle Stir Fry

CHICKEN with Lemon, Capers and Red Onions

Flavor magician

Text by Miguel G. Bocobo
Photos by Rudel Ruivivar

CELEBRITY CHEF ROCCO DiSpirito makes magic in the kitchen with an apron for a wizard's robe and a spatula for a magic wand.

In less than five minutes, he conjures culinary master pieces from thin air and serves a feast fit for royalty.

With his latest book, "Rocco's 5-Minute Flavors," DiSpirito removes the magician's mask and shares the secrets of his culinary wizardry: "anyone can produce flavorful dishes in five minutes or less," he says. "All you need are the right kitchen tools and the right ingredients."

Brought here by Ole Ayala Malls, he performed his magic by cooking dishes at Greenbelt 3, Alabang Town Center and Ayala Center Cebu before a spellbound audience numbering mostly of women.

The "session chef alert" quipped that not only were the recipes quick and easy to do, "You'll look good while doing [them]."

Starting young

DiSpirito learned to savor taste at an early age. His mother had a full-time job as a public school lunch lady but she made sure to be home to prepare dinner for her family every evening.

DiSpirito writes in the introduction to his new book, "While my friends everyone was ambivalent and there was always food for one more at my table."

He also learned to appreciate flavor from his neighbors who came from all over the world and shared the dishes of their homelands with the young DiSpirito.

Trained at The Culinary Institute of America and Boston University, he also immersed himself in French food and wine at the prestigious Jardin des Cygnes restaurant in Paris.

Featured on the cover of Gourmet magazine, he was called the "Three Guy" the chef who COOKS (by himself, in an epic task), DESIGNS (his own clothes) and is a PEOPLE (with famous shoes, "The Restaurant," that chronicled his experiences in his episodic New York restaurant.

Hailed as Food & Wine's Best New Chef in 1999 and Restaurant magazine's Australia's Inspiring Young Chef in 2000, DiSpirito is known for his sweet yet style of fusion cooking, combining simple clean ingredients with multicultural French techniques.

Five-minute flavor

"The key to flavor is your palate," says DiSpirito. "Without it, how do you know if anything tastes or will taste good?"

For his latest book, DiSpirito stressed himself away from the high-tech equipment in restaurant kitchens. How did he compromise?

"The key is high heat," DiSpirito says. "You have to cook flavor dishes with high heat."

The chef offers another caveat: cooking should improve more people. "Food can be so diarrhea because when you give yourself, women find it very compelling," he says.

For a romantic meal, he suggests that a man should cook risotto, which involves stirring rice for 20 minutes an hour. "By that time, she'll fall in love with you," he jokes.

DiSpirito also shares a sauce recipe guaranteed to woo hearts, aside from doing wonders for any dish, especially fish.

The recipe: Mix 1/3 cup pesto, 1/3 cup pesto, and 1/3 cup mandarin mix. Pour over any dish, hot or cold, and voila, you get a rainbow of taste.

Chef Rocco DiSpirito shows cooking can leave plenty of time for romance

Recipes

From "Rocco's 5-Minute Flavors"):

Chicken with Lemon, Capers and Red Onions

Serves 4

Basic ingredients:
12 tbsp (1½ sticks) butter, at room temperature
Flour for dredging
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
Main ingredients:
2 eggs
4 (3oz chicken cutlets (about 1 ounce each)
½ cup lemon juice
2 ounces capers, rinsed
½ cup sliced red onion
Directions:

1. Heat 4 tbsp of the butter in a large sauté pan over medium-low heat until hot and lightly foaming but not brown.

2. Meanwhile, spread the flour on a plate and season with salt and pepper.

Beat the eggs in a shallow dish. Dredge the chicken in the flour and then dip in the eggs to coat.

3. Add the chicken to the hot butter and cook, turning once, until light golden brown on both sides and cooked through about 2 minutes per side. Transfer the chicken to a platter and season with salt and pepper.

4. While the chicken is cooking, bring the lemon juice to a boil in another large sauté pan. Whisk in the remaining 8 tbsp butter and simmer until the sauce is slightly reduced.

Add the capers and season the sauce with salt. If necessary, add pepper.

5. Pour the sauce over the chicken and sprinkle with the red onion. Serve immediately.

Shrimp and Noodle Stir Fry

Serves 4

Basic ingredients:
¼ cup olive oil
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
¼ cup water
Main ingredients:
1 (8-ounce) package thin rice noodles
2 tbsp hoisin sauce (or prepared teriyaki sauce)
1½ pounds shrimp (26-40 count), peeled and de-veined
4 scallions, cut on the bias into 2-inch pieces
1 tbsp minced fresh ginger
1 tbsp minced garlic
½ cup chicken broth
2 tbsp soy sauce
1 tbsp sesame oil
Directions:

1. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the noodles and cook until tender, about 4 minutes. Drain the noodles, rinse, and set aside.

2. Heat the oil in a large sauté pan over high heat until hot but not smoking. Add the shrimp and cook, stirring frequently, until the shrimp is cooked through, about 2 minutes.

3. Add the scallions, ginger, and garlic and cook for 1 minute. Add the broth, soy sauce, hoisin sauce, and sesame oil and bring to a boil. Add the noodles and toss to combine. Season with salt and pepper if necessary, and toss to evenly coat all the noodles. Serve hot.

Smoked Pork Chops with Rosemary and Gibbsada

Serves 4

Basic ingredients:
½ cup plus 2 tbsp canola oil
Flour for dredging
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
Main ingredients:
2 eggs
1 ½ cups dried bread crumbs
1 (8.8-ounce) package Rosemary cheese, slightly softened
8 thin center-cut boneless pork loin chops (just under 1 ½ pounds total)
12 ounces skinned collard greens (collards), stemmed greens, Chinese broccoli, or spinach (or a mixture)

1. Pour ½ of the oil into one large sauté pan, pour the remaining 2 tbsp into another large sauté pan, and heat until hot. Clean down the heat under the second pan if the oil begins to smoke, then turn it up again before adding the greens.

2. Meanwhile, spread the flour on a plate and season with salt and pepper. Beat the eggs in a shallow bowl. Spread bread crumbs on another plate.

3. Spread one quarter of the Rosemary cheese on each of the pork chops. Top each with another pork chop and press down firmly. Dredge the chops in the flour, dip in the eggs, and then dredge in the bread crumbs. Place the chops in the pan with ½ c oil. Cook until golden brown on the first side, about 2 ½ minutes. Flip the chops and cook for another 2 ½ minutes, or until cooked through.

4. Meanwhile, add the collard greens to the second pan and season with salt and pepper. Cook for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the greens are wilted and tender but not mushy. Remove the pork chops from the pan and drain. Serve each chop with a pile of collards alongside.

WHY IS A PIZZA KITCHEN also dishing out sandwiches? Well, it is the Italian Pizza Kitchen, it's not just for variety but also for genuine use of its modern oven. CPK's sandwiches are fresh, it's baked and served straight out of the oven with delicious flavor in the bite.

The CPK Grilled Vegetarian Sandwich is packed with grilled Portobello mushrooms, grilled red and yellow peppers with melted Fontina and Mozzarella cheeses, and homemade sun-dried tomato aioli.

The CPK Grilled Rosemary Chicken Sandwich is filled with grilled chicken breast marinated in rosemary, rosemary and white wine, served with fresh Romaine lettuce leaves, sliced Roma tomatoes and, of course, Caesar dressing.

The CPK Tuna Sandwich has albacore tuna chilled in a salad along with sweet white onions, Granny Smith apples, and Jicama, spiced up with a zesty herb-mustard Provencale vinaigrette.

These fabulous sandwiches are available at these CPK locations: Glorietta 3, Ayala Center; Centr de las Palmas, Alabang Town Center; 3/L, Shangri-La Plaza Mall; Bellagio Square, Fairview Terraces and Promenade Greenhills.

Trash-y trading places

By Linda B. Bulalo

TOMORROW, SEPT. 22, AND every third Friday of the month, a new kind of barter trading will be held at the Alabang Town Center, Alabang-Zapote Road.

The innovative waste trade markets will also be held every first Friday of the month at the Gold Coin Car Park, Ayala Center, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

THE CONSUMER

What do the waste markets offer?

You can trade scrap paper for new (at first, relative) I, as well as ink cartridges for toner. You can sell your obsolete items (junk computers) and old broken appliances, and even used food and housewares.

The markets will also let you redeem for cash PET (polyethylene terephthalate) plastic bottles and other plastics, aluminum, tin cans, scrap glass.

There will also be drop-off points for junk cell phones, cell phone batteries, styrofoam.

The markets want to make recycling convenient and accessible, especially for people who visit shopping areas.

Contact Winny Pilien at the Philippine Business for the Environment, 6352805.

Our regular columnist, Marietta V. Rivera, is indisposed. Please send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Shaw Blvd., Ugong, Pasig City, Metro Manila 1550 (Makati Central Post Office 1260 Makati), or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph.—Editor

In season!

MOONCAKES are selling like, well, hotcakes, in time for the Chinese Moon Festival. Lok Yuen Noodle House offers freshly baked mooncakes with tasty bean cream and salted egg yolk. And yes, no preservatives. Their mooncakes come in single (P48) or boxes of six (P268). Lok Yuen is at Glorietta 2, Cash & Carry, Magallanes, Greenhills Shopping Center, SM Megamall B and Makati Supermart, Alabang.

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MORE A roasted or a grill made of coconut coirfibre.

BOILED cow's legs called bulbolan at the Maasa market

Old and new memories of Bohol

SUMMARISING FROM THE FIGHT that brought us to Bohol, my sisters and I were assembled for offers to bring us to our destination, a resort on Panglao Island.

All the offers seemed unreasonable so we walked toward the parking area hoping to find a taxi driver who would charge only what was on his meter. We found one and got in much more. He proved to be a reliable guide throughout our stay.

Every time I mentioned places I had been to on a previous visit, Mang Teotot, our taxi guide, knew where to take us. And that was how I was able to retrace where we last trip took me, my final visit 10 years ago.

One of the memorable was Mangay restaurant because that was where I had my first taste of Bohol Ambot with only onion, pepper and salt to flavor it. We arrived near closing time and the to-then Inflorete mam's instantiate. She brought crunchy and well-cooked ambot here to us.

In our mid-morning cooked food, we inquired at the Inflorete.

From what I remembered of that first visit, Inflorete is now's first boiled until still tender, sautéed in garlic, ginger to used to remove the odor and add flavor, a yellow coloring comes from a fruit that looks like a cupcake (I can't recall the name).

Bohol-ness 'smuglan'

We bought some broiled meat that was then mixed with vinegar, the Bohol version of the smuglan but without the coconut milk. And then lapon, our seafood pieces cooked in coconut milk.

While one can get an ambot isn't in all Japanese restaurants, nothing can compare to my first taste of it. My boss then, the Bokors of the now closed Jo'Bokor restaurant, Meiglen Sy-Bokor, introduced it to me.

I didn't know a diver was the painted to harvest some by the beach. So ventured with a basket of it, cracking open the shell for me to taste the meat.

Nothing can compare to that sweet, salty experience of newly harvested sea urchins, the limon juices and the runny noodles.

With my bottle of tuyon, we headed to the next place I remembered, the barbecue place called "Sha's the Limit," that like the boiled lapon, the barbecue place was a disappointment.

The sea urchin didn't live up to taste expectation and the place didn't live up to its name. The menu was called because the whole area was an open air-on-top place, no roof, only the sky. But today's taxi drive tended to be made of plastic, probably to make the place unsuitable even during the rainy season. However, it makes the atmosphere inside muggy.

How sad that one can't recognize former pleasures. But I was pleased with the new Mang Teotot brought us to the boat maker.

Fascinating 'lorong'

On my first visit, I was so fascinated to see the dozen Cindy Crawford wars will baked in wood-fired clay ovens and then toasted on a grill made of coconut midrib the arranged close together then set on top of empty.

Today, as Chang's in the name of Sha, chose I where the oldest church is located), drove it still done that way. Owner Sylvia Fernandez Mantarola was kind enough to let us witness the process. From the churning of the batter on automatic dough mixer until it is divided, to the pouring of the batter into rod-shaped pieces. Baking in the oven and then roasting.

Again, nothing can compare to newly baked *bruas*. We gladly accepted the bigay, dipped goodies in our large. It's sweeter than the Quezon province version because sugar is sprinkled right after the baking.

In between piping the pieces, Sylvia told the story of the business. The original recipe was from the Jimbas family of Tagbilaran who still have a shop in town. A great grandmom, who used to wash Chris, experimented with the formula and taught Sylvia's late Ching who started the business in 1928.

Sylvia took over in 1972 only because she was the only one in the family who was interested. She said none of her children seemed to be interested.

Chang's makes 30 packs of 100 pieces a day. More pieces were made when it's fiesta time, Sylvia said.

So, on our first day in Bohol, we went to the places visited on that first trip. The next day was for making new memories.

The hills are alive

With *bruas* to sustain us, we headed for the Chocolate Hills passing through the cool forest of mahogany trees. After the rains, the hills are green instead of brown but they still are awesome wonders.

Next destination was Loboc town where we marveled at the church including its music museum. We proceeded to the floating restaurant for lunch as our driver guide suggested and it's the best one.

We made do with the prepared buffet of the usual suspects — pork barbecue, pansit, sisig satay. Like most buffets in the country, food was served in chafing dishes but the food was not heated because sterno burners underneath were not lighted. Restaurant operators must realize it's no use to serve food that way.

At the Loboc river, my sisters and I lived up to the family tradition of jumping into my body of water notwithstanding the strong current that almost brought one of us under on the cruise.

We ended the tour with the mercenary pirates with the vendors, one of which frightened me because it kept jumping from branch to branch. What if it thought I was a tree? The guide kept reassuring me that the small creatures were more afraid of humans.

We were back where we started two days after, at the pier waiting for our ride back to cebu, that reliable Mang Teotot brought us down on time. Would that all guests are nice and easy and even's previous had one just like him.

E-mail the author at pinaydoc@yahoo.com

Kapampangan food goes south

BARS OF KAPAMPANGAN FOOD SOUTH of Manila are not about having to go all the way to Mabalacat Dolgas, Caloocan. So eat all you can, eat all you want restaurant recently opened a new branch at the third level of Festival Mall in Alabang.

The new Caloocan is a 190-person restaurant adorned with retro furniture, antique chandeliers and glass mirrors. Its the NEW eat-all-you-can buffet counter are manila owned by Manny Baldonia and Bobby Manansala.

There is an exclusive function room good for 40 persons and ideal for weddings, baptismal parties, debuts, business meetings and family reunions. Set menus accommodates different budget requirements.

Caloocan offers Pampanga's renowned dishes like sisi ding Ding, Kare-Kare, Bopis, Nilasang na Hipon, Bistig Tipsin ng Bangus, Inihaw na Hito, Litalicious Relat, Crablets, Lumpia, Tokwa't Baboy, Crispy Kangkong and an assortment of native salads. Think Think, Think Maja, Leche Flan, Halayo Ube and gelatin complement the day's gourmet feast. Rule Buffet.

Currently stashing at Caloocan is the Tuna Steamed with shakes, such as Quikato Tuna, Inihaw na Pusit ng Tuna, Bistig Tuna Belly, Tapang Tuba ng Tuna Sa Mina and Fried Tuna Tail.

Caloocan's in-house brands like Silot ng Talangka, Gisiang Bagoong, Bareng Hipon and Sweet Chili Sauce are also available at the Pinoy Delicacies at all Caloocan restaurants.

Caloocan Restaurants are located at 67 Pine Avenue, QC; 2/L, SM City North EDSA, QC; 4/L, Bldg B., SM Megamall, Mandaluyong; 2/L, Robinsons Place Ermita, Manila; 3/L, Robinsons Galleria, Ortigas; 3, Ayala Center, Makati; 6/L, Robinsons Magnolia, San Fernando, Pampanga; Richmond drive, fm. Lucia East Grand Mall, Cainta, Rizal. Soon to open is a branch at SM Clark, Pampanga.

Call 4133881. For catering needs, call 427-9229 or 9155422.

Buffet spread

CONCOCTION Ryma, Caloocan operations manager Jeanne Gasgonia, Pandesal Supermall operations division manager Cynthia Bandoan, marketing project manager; Martin Aragon, marketing division manager Lorraine Palicias; fr Luis Candelaria; Maribel Herrera Shaw; Ely Peralta, leasing division manager; Jenny Pagalilauan, Pandesal Supermall PR.

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INSIDE

Wildcard round on 'Idol'/D8

Singin' in the rain for peace/D6

Annabelle's words of wisdom/D7

Keanna Reeves back on her toes/D7

Bonding with GMA 7 CEO/D3

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Toronto fest top winners

TORONTO—THE UNDERRATED "Bella," Mexican-born director Alejandro Gomez Monteverde's feature film debut, took the top audience prize at the 31st Toronto International Film Festival, while international critics gave an award to the controversial

15-22 September
Cinema 1, Greenbelt 3

18-19 September
UP Cine Adarna

20-21 September
Ayala Onstage
Ayala Center, Cebu

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Brian TV movie "Death of a Presidency," which centers on a fictionalized assassination of George W. Bush.

"Bella," a romantic film which tells the story of a former Mexican soccer star named Jose Eduardo Verastegui and a waitress, Michelle Jenner, on rough journey. Eduardo's self-imposed exile in New York, sets the superior winner of the People's Choice Award voted on by festival audiences.

Monteverde, who was born in Mexico but moved to the United States as a teenager, said he first got the idea for the movie several years ago and began filming in the US conducted "Bella." Besides director Gabriel Reguer's "Death of a Presidency" stirred up a strong reaction even before it premiered at the fest, but it won the Prize of the International Critics. The jury of critics cited it "for the audacity with which it dares to reality to reveal a larger truth." AP

glorietta | GREENBELT | TOWN | AYALA CENTER CEBU | MARKET! MARKET! | Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS

G1	1 [illegible]	2 THE BREED	3 YOU ARE THE ONE	4 DEAD OR ALIVE		
G4	1 THE BREED	2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	3 DEAD OR ALIVE			
	4 KINKY BOOTS	5 CRANK	6 STEP UP	7 YOU ARE A SUPERSTAR		
GB1	1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	2 STEP UP				
GB3	1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	2 STEP UP				
	3 [illegible]	4 KINKY BOOTS	5 SCOOP			
ATC	1 STEP UP	2 DEAD OR ALIVE				
	3 THE BREED	4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	5 SCOOP			
ACC	1 4TH AUSTRALIAN FILM FESTIVAL	2 [illegible]	3 DEAD OR ALIVE	4 THE WICKER MAN		
M2	1 STEP UP	2 TWILIGHT SAVAGES				
	3 THE BREED	4 YOU ARE THE ONE	5 DEAD OR ALIVE			

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	TOWN
[illegible]	Ayala's Superstars
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
[illegible]	Ati-Atihan Dance Competition

Greenbelt — Samba Nights at GB 2

Cinemalaya — Repertory Philippines presents THE BOOR & THE PROPOSAL

Ayala Museum — Gee Tin Tin Pang Nora

15-22 September
Cinema 1, Greenbelt 3

18-19 September
UP Cine Adarna

20-21 September
Ayala Onstage
Ayala Center, Cebu

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Shops at Serendra

PRESENTS

SERENDRA RHYTHMS

7:30 PM Fountain Area of Shops at Serendra

September 22 and 29 Paolo Santos

October 6 Nina

923-JOEY

GMA 7 soars high in Durian Republic

I TRIED A SLAST IN DAVAO DURING GMA-7's Kapuso Day at the PECC Mall. The venue was packed! Everyone who's-dey-who is over there right now. Just like the Philippine eagle that's found in Davao, GMA is soaring high in Durian Republic.

Celebrities present were Patrick Garcia, Lucelle Prats, Klaus Reinez, Wendell Ramos, Maureen Larrazabal, Kristopher de Leon, Bernadette Allyson Castillo, Jennylyn Mercado, Arnold Clavio, Jiggy Manicad, Jay Taruc, Pia Arcangel, Soraya Saba, Bea Binene and Gabby Eigenmann. They were joined by Davao teen stars Kristina Gonzalez, Kristal Commander and Mika Feerer-Sacro of the popular show "Inday" which means "today". Ilustrado's delightful Cassanovas with a free concert.

Bonding with the boss

The highlight of my first Davao trip was bonding with GMA 7's chairman, president and CEO Felipe Gozon and his charming wife Regal. We are spending P148 million to improve our transmitters nationwide. I really want to compare Davao to we are putting up a building here by next year. Our local newscasts "Saksi" and "24 Oras" are already top rated in Davao. Our other shows are not far behind unlike before on multi-ph ulo when I see the ratings."

He wondered why, when it comes to cable ratings, there's a discrepancy. "I've hired marketing experts to explain why in non-cable ratings, DMA leads but on cable ratings cole seems to darlos leads. Okay lang naman on cable if pareho ang kalaban. Mina among dayuan."

But the warm welcome given by the Davaoenos was more than enough to maintain Mr. Gozon's high spirits. I admire his buoyancy and enthusiasm. Now I know why the GMA rank and file are unanimous in saying that he's really the owner of the station's success.

All in all, it was a roundabout birthday treat for me. Special thanks to my dear colleagues **Isabel Nalua** (Daily Tribune), **Maria Bautista** (People's Journal), **Shirley Pizarro** (Manila Bulletin), **Marie Fernandez** (Malaya) and GMA's ever dependable, bu-ch **Raquel, Butch Bardamatsa, Nanie Dotse** and **Jojo Sapalo**. The sweetness of your company overpowered the pungent smell of Durian during our fun Kapuso weekend in Davao.

EXCL (For Your Indulgence)

► Someone in the know called me up regarding my item about Jen Villania who was reportedly spotted kissing a network top executive. It turns out that the big boss' girlfriend is a dancing queen for Jen. But what's this I hear that Jen is also eyeing Boss Orang ngay? Is he officially separated from his wife, and so he's now fish/work? Playing the field, that is.

► Side A: Francisco Joey Gonzalez told me that his daughter seems to be following in his footsteps. "She has her own band. Kuha pleyer siya. Mukha na a pinsel daw!" Wonder's it be cute if she named her future band Side B?

► A make-up artist close to Heart Evangelista insists that she has split up with Javier Bautista. Besides, Bot insists refuse to buy the story. They think it's just a ploy to distract attention from the ongoing case filed by ex-GF Gladys Guevarra of Zobel's brother Jeremiah against Jeremiah and his mom Rose, for frustrated intentional abortion. Perhaps Zobel will just sing his troubles away with his newly-formed band Icons.

► Speaking of Heart and Zobel, I reassured Mr. Gozon if it's true that they are moving to GMA-7. He chuckled. "Young but sometimes I'm the last one to know!" But of course, he has the last say!

► Marvin Agustin is overjoyed about his Luna Star Actor award. He is going to do the GMA soap with Rufa Mae Quinto and Angel Locsin starting October. His first Unang movie "Hanap Ka Lilingon" with Aga Muhlach and Bea Binene will be out Oct. 25. Only a few actors like Marvs can have the best of both worlds!

► Regine Velasquez surfaced four hours late for the taping of "Pinoy Pop Superstar" due to traffic. Surprisingly, Divi Louie Ignacio didn't flare up. In a diva like Regine's world, this long must or don't she contestants have much of choice?

► Is it true that Ringdong Dantes has qualms about going topless in "Sikatcha" because he has scratch marks? But his right-hating customers will reveal if he has the bulges in the right places!

► I was assured by the same one at Champ (Kate Gonzalez) on route to Davao. He was with a Japanese-looking girl and per I couldn't tell if she "Hapones" is his GF but he was quite chummy to her. Is she really the champ of his heart?

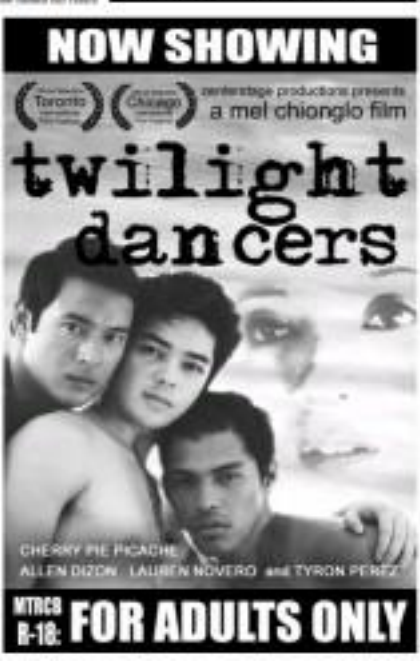
Kudos to my good friend Ricky Lo! CO and Editor-in-Chief of "Showbiz Kaagapay" consistently tops the ratings in spite of its late time slot. I hardly miss an episode.

E-mail: mariaenglishdelarosa@yahoo.com.

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

KAPUSO stars with GMA Network president Felipe Gozon



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GALLERIA

1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA – THX
12:30 3:30 6:30 7:45 10:00

2 RESERVE

3 STEP UP
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

4 DEAD OR ALIVE
11:30 1:40 3:40 5:50 7:55 10:00

5 THE BREED
11:20 1:40 3:40 5:50 7:50 10:00

6 TWILIGHT DANCERS
12:20 2:40 5:10 7:30 10:00

7 MAXIMO OLIVEROS 12:50 3:20 5:30
THE WICKER MAN 7:50 10:00

8 YOU ARE THE ONE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

9 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
1:20 3:30 5:30 7:40 9:50

10 CRANK
1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

ERMITA

1 DEAD OR ALIVE

2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
SCOOP

3 STEP UP

4 TWILIGHT DANCERS

5 THE BREED

6 CRANK
YOU'RE THE ONE

7 ANG PAGBABALIKASA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS

METRO EAST

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2 DEAD OR ALIVE

3 STEP UP

4 CRANK

5 TWILIGHT DANCERS

6 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

7 YOU'RE THE ONE

8 RESERVE

NOVALICHES

1 TWILIGHT DANCERS
2 YOU ARE THE ONE

3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 DEAD OR ALIVE

OTSO SQUARE MALABON

1 ETERNITY
2 YOU'RE THE ONE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER

1 THE BREED
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 STEP UP
4 TWILIGHT DANCERS

STA. ROSA

1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 THE WICKER MAN
3 YOU'RE THE ONE
4 CRANK

LIPA

1 CRANK
2 SPL
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 YOU'RE THE ONE

DASMARINAS

1 CRANK
2 TWILIGHT DANCERS
3 THE WICKER MAN
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

ANGELES

1 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
2 STAY ALIVE
3 YOU'RE THE ONE
4 BASIC INSTINCT 2

IMUS

1 STAY ALIVE
2 TWILIGHT DANCERS
3 THE WICKER MAN
4 YOU'RE THE ONE

STARMILLS

1 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
2 CRANK
3 SCOOP
4 ETERNITY
5 YOU'RE THE ONE
6 SNAKES ON A PLANE

BACOLOD

1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
3 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
4 YOU'RE THE ONE
5 HUSBAZOR
6 SINGGING K

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1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
4 YOU'RE THE ONE

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ROUNDUP

Cruz Gang'

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...Bull (Nick "Goldeye

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AP

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Cruz

TANYA Diaz stood out with her group rendition of Gary W Boone's "Sweet Child O' Mine."

UMBRELLAS once lost and off. Drizzles came, went and came again, but the audience stayed.

Singin' in the rain for 'just a minute'

By Pachela Concepcion
Contributor

A TYPICAL SCENE ON WEEKENDS around the garden at Greenbelt 3 would be the cacti crowd chattering while trying to make sense of music blasting from the bars; transvestites hitting with foreigners; and a steady stream of night owls out to get drunk and happy.

The place looked well's all sorts of noise.

Last Sunday was radically different.

Quiet.

The garden provided a soothing backdrop for an event that was promoting the joy of being still.

"Just a minute," a global campaign organized by the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University (BKWSU) for people to practice one-minute periods of silence per hour, with the presence of life changing benefits.

Aside from Manila, the multi-media launch involved several major cities worldwide including Madrid, Moscow, Sydney, Rio de Janeiro and London where, at the Wembley Arena, Robin Gibb of the Bee Gees led celebrities in attesting to the wonders of the practice.

In the Greenbelt show directed by Joey Arguilla, an assorted lineup of celebrities — Joey Generoso of Side A, Eheet Caballero, Lizh Tan, Shaidee G. Bunga-Ferreras, Tina Orosa, Joseph Perez, Jana del Prado, La Guardania, Ivone Tiro, Vales Pasking and Jenn Hocon—provided brief entertainment-comedienne audiences.

Pop singer turned businessman Tommy Cruz opened the show with a medley of tunes that sounded like personal thoughts on his own "just-a-sec" sessions. This, while closing with an umbrella gives us late his presentation against a drizzle.

From all the similarly themed performances (including a poetry reading by Senate Congresswoman Loren Legarda-Fua, who stood out with a song originally by Gian W Boone, a hard-rock band not exactly known for espousing pieces of mind, but the singer, Tanya Diaz, who accompanied herself on acoustic guitar, charmed the crowd with her powerful, touching vocals on "Sweet Child O' Mine"—which, indeed, referred to serene thoughts that were somehow appropriate for the occasion.

Lest it it appeared, how does one get into that one minute faster?

From among several high-profile local personalities who gave testimonials on the practice, Senator Gregorio Honasan "falls probably said it best. In the midst of what he called the biggest crisis of his life (lawsuits and unsolved tasks/TV programs arising from his off with Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo), Falfo said he has experienced great moments of inner peace by pausing every minute or so and listening to his "inner voice"—that silent yet powerful mental expression of the self that clears away clutter arising from the stresses and distractions of daily living.

The big picture

"Just" is a catchy phrase that also means meditation, reflection, visualization, focusing, concentration, yoga, or even prayer. The concept is made accessible by its natural nature that welcomes everyone from all religions, political persuasions, races.

The bigger picture is that, if more people could make it an essential part of their lives, then the world might really become a better place.

"Just a" instructions may be downloaded from www.just-a-minute.org. Audio CDs are available locally. Call (632) 7962 or (632) 7926.

JAMMING FOR PEACE (clockwise, from top left) Jana del Prado, Tina Diaz, Oliveka Orosa, Lorna Verano-Yap, Elmer Caballero, Bonggoy Ferreras.

Naughty, haughty hotties attack

By Oliver M. Palumbarit
Contributor

IF YOU CAN GET PAST THE thought that most of the high school characters in "John Tarlac Must Die" don't look like teenagers, it should quickly work for you, that even if you initially mind the actors' do-nothing, you'll get into the "teen" comedy eventually anyway, if only to find out how the hot girls remain chaste in the end, romantic gets resolved. It's not a totally laugh-out-loud revenge flick, and it's especially grueling in some parts, but it still disposes some modern anxiety moments along the way.

Fairly accurate

The school setting in "John Tarlac" isn't different from many others that present sharp divisions between social cliques. That's fairly accurate, and predictably becomes a kick-engine, and here, given the material's intimate. Of course, as with most school schools, the athletic hero is glorified and stereotyped as a babe-magnet. The movie's life characters, star Jane Imtiaz, player John (Jesse Bitonal), star pretty much as easy with any thing, including lying to, and seducing the school's hottest girls, minus the usual but charmed with virtually the same romantic catchphrases.

The story is told from the perspective of perennial wallflower Kate (Bernice Bautista), who witnesses John's incessant cheating on unseen young women. Kate likens him to the ace good man that has single mom. (Jenny Mc-Carthy's large darling, incurs the collectively collective "Slip? (because they all skip town after intercourse...the teen inspires three love-struck schoolmates—cheerleader Heather (Jackson's), comedienne Isabel reporter Carrie (Arielle Reddel) and animal rights activist Beth (Sophia Bach)—into bonding together to spur John's regression. Strangely, all their brilliant, well-planned plots backfire.

When all else fails, the ace up their sleeve turns out to be Kate herself, whom the revenge doctor (no makes over into a hard-to-get hottie to attract, then break the heart of, the unrepentant player. The revenge comparisons are relevant, imagined, but indeed surprise or immediacy in execution. Still, they're occasionally amusing. The object of the girls' scorn is deservingly subjected to humiliations.

Too tepid

"John Tarlac Must Die" resembles many teen films, mostly unoriginal, that portray young people as easily susceptible to peer pressure, and very capable of cruelty when provoked.

The subject of infidelity is addressed, too, but the conflict is resolved with a conclusion that seems a little too rapid and rote, shifting from the more socially relevant facets that made its building moderately entertaining. "John Tarlac" does send the message that honesty is still a virtue, that exclusivity is still a concept that must be respected by both partners in a relationship.

The movie typically has its share of pretty faces, shapely bodies and naughty behavior, making it enticing enough, dull resolution notwithstanding.

Weird kind of vengeance

THE NEW ANIMATION TECHNOLOGY called "motion capture" is used in striking advantage in the latest animated feature, "Monster House." It imbues the production with a more realistic look that makes its events and characters readily accessible to viewers.

Gil Kenan's film also takes the traditional Halloween angle, the haunted house, and runs with it much further than before, by making it come dynamically come to life, and even feel a wide range of emotions.

As the movie imagines it, the "monster" house has taken to "eating" anyone who trespasses into its territories. The house is self is a monument and even a monument to a love gone terribly wrong and vengeful.

Some years ago, an emotionally fat woman was ridiculed by society, but found love in the arms of a quiet man. Unfortunately, his love wasn't enough to stop all the cruelty, hate and anger that the outside world wanted on her, as the deceased women enacted a weird kind of vengeance by becoming the house that surrounded her, and refusing a male her unconscious anger.

That is a far-out concept that's right up to find in an animated feature, but filmmaker Kenan, under the mentoring of Steven Spielberg and Robert Zemeckis, is able to pull it off.

As the house pains strength and vicinities, the movie becomes an exhilarating plus exposition convinces he lured in scenes, and the production moves up to a genuine once-symbolic level.

If anything, as anybody can hate this much, the viewers remains, it operates reluctance about the power of love gone wrong, and thus serves as a cautionary warning to us not to unmask others' hearts to the quick.

Balancing the monstrous horror of the house's vengeful spirit is the fact that the movie's action is seen through the eyes of children. This convinces the potentially bitter horse and makes it easier for young viewers to see the predicaments in the right context.

Still, the responsible parent or guardian should be aware that the film will be too "scary" for some children, especially those who have very young children may find initially perplexing.

For older viewers, however, "Monster House" is a consistently entertaining viewing treat, as it keeps developing its initial premise until grandiose resolution.

Yes, its finale is clearly over the top, but it's a fun visual trip all the same. And the movie's clever, more sensitive and mordant moments are welcome, because they place the movie's biggest and loudest sequences in thoughtful equipoise.

'RTL' on DVD and video

—The drawn-to-video film, "RTL," a musical ensemble comedy set in an infants hip-hop joint-dating club. It stars Tip Harris, Mekhi Williamson, Amber Long and Keith David, and has been released here on DVD and video. Bonus features include Harris' "What You Know" music video, additional scenes and "In the Hub" director Chris Robinson's journey.

'Pinoy Kamasutra'

The sexy instructional video, "Pinoy Kamasutra," teaches viewers how to have lush the love-making sex life with plus sensible positions like The Pointer, The Arc, The Amazon and The Maid.

The video features Bet Yoko Katya Santos, Lara Lopez, Anna Scott, Monique dela Fuente, Leilani Navarro, Scarlet and Sachie Sanders and Jacobs De Leon and other Hot Men.

13 Artists awardees

The exhibit of the CCP 13 Artists awardees will be opened on Sept. 28 at the Main Theater lobby. The exhibit at the CCP Main Gallery runs from Sept. 28 to Oct. 31.

The 13 Artists awardees are Pobling Sanding, Jolee Bilangmor, Mariano Cheng, Leeo Calmagbang, Daniel Coquia, Ludette Cordero, Iyla Ahang Gabriel-Jano, Eugene Jarque, Jayson Oliveria, Gary-Boris Pastrana, Yasmin Sison, Ma. Cristina Valdueza and Jocelyn R. Wong.

Words of wisdom

KATE GOSSELIN

"SARAH AND BAYDEN, TIMY"

This star-breathtaly Kansas socialite advice to daughter Bayden Gosselin, who honored and hosted above hosting JON '8's forthcoming reality search, "Multiplanet Next Top Model."

Stalls said she was reluctant to have her familiar's "private life" exposed, but to daughters in Turkey, where their family is based. "If I bring the girls with me, '10-star would call us '11-times a day," the actress said.

But now that Stalls has agreed to do the show, will her feisty mom appear on the show? "It's not a timing," Stalls said. "It took 27 takes to perfect her 'adult conversation. I wonder what she would have the 'Top Model' contestants do. Poor women."

Precious attention

A beauty queen-turned-movie star is the object of a wealthy suitor's very priceless (expensive) attention. She is brought to and from the movie set in chauffeur-driven luxury cars. Emphasis on "chauffeur" and "luxury."

Desperate 'artista'

Whenever her pretty and more talented friends are in the movies, this desperate "artista" (in quotation marks because we still have no use that she could be called an actress) cooks up intrigues about ... herself! Granted, she has become quite the master of this game. But she should also know that people in the industry have memories, and are watching her every move. Collective memory is her most recent gimmick was "Big deal!"

Oh, my flop

This very actress was so distraught over the lackluster box-office performance of her last movie, that she is dragging her feet on her next project, according to the Metro Manila Film Festival. Her producers are also close to dropping the project.

Alias John Tucker

Hunk Jesse Metcalfe can bring a real-life John Tucker once upon a time: "I had three girls on the go at once. There is a manageable number but it can get stressful and the juggling can be tough."

Groovy at 73

LAFAYETTE, Louisiana—Country music star Willie Nelson and four others were issued misdemeanor citations for possession of narcotic marijuana and marijuana after their tour bus was stopped Monday morning on a Louisiana highway, state police said.

In a news release, state police said, "When the bus door was opened and the troopers began to speak to the driver, he smelled the strong odor of marijuana." A search produced 65% grams of marijuana and 38 grams of narcotic medications.

Cited along with Nelson, 73, were Tony Stoneroor, 56; Bobby Nelson, 75; Craig Moore, 34; and Emeli Anderson, 30. They were released after being issued citations.

Happy with figure

NEW YORK—Scarlett Johansson shows off in cleavage-baring dresses on the red carpet, but in real life, she would rather remain a mystery.

"I can't stand those articles where people spill their life story," Johansson says in the October issue of Allure magazine, on newsstands Friday.

Johansson, 21, admits she gets nervous about her career, even if her shooting schedule is swamped. She's more content when left alone.

SCARLETT JOHANSSON

Rushes

ASHANTI

Ashanti's debt

NEW YORK—Grammy-winning singer Ashanti testified Monday that she was a teenager trying to follow her dream when she worked a decade ago with a producer who is seeking more than $2 million for helping start her career.

Ashanti, now 25, was the first witness at a trial to determine how much she owes Gerard Becker after another jury last year concluded she broke a contract with him. Her lawyer said Parker should receive no more than the $50,000 that a judge has already awarded and must be paid.

A jury last year concluded the singer owed Parker $650,000 but US District Judge Jed Rakoff rejected some of the award.

Ashanti is currently starring as a cheerleader in "John Tucker Must Die."

Bushmen run to Leo

JOHANNESBURG—Bushmen's San frontiersmen, fighting a bitter battle for rights to ancestral land in the Kalahari desert, on Monday appealed for the backing of Hollywood heartthrob Leonardo DiCaprio.

Campaigners dressed to strike to the "Titanic" star after hearing about his upcoming movie "The Blood Diamond," in which he plays a smuggler of gemstones whose proceeds are used to help Revere civil wars in Africa.

"Friends have told me that you are in a film, 'The Blood Diamond,' which shows how badly diamonds can hurt. We know this. When we were chased off our land, officials told us it was because of the diamond finds," they became, a spokesperson for the Bushmen, said in a letter to DiCaprio. "Please help us Sir. We know you are a famous and respected man, and that if you speak up for us many people will listen. We just want to go home, and hunt and gather and live in peace like we have always done."

The appeal to DiCaprio also appears in a full-page advertisement in the film industry magazine Variety. AFP

Just take a look at Keanna now

Text and photos by Nitni Valera

KEANNA Reeves

SEXY STARLET KEANNA Reeves was on the brink of destruction just a year ago.

"My career couldn't take off despite the gimmicks my former manager had cooked up," she told Inquirer Entertainment in an exclusive interview recently.

"I was down and out and feeling very sorry for myself," she admitted. "My relationship with my boyfriend was going nowhere—he was draining me financially and emotionally."

But all that changed when she hit the jackpot in the reality show "Pinoy Big Brother Celebrity Edition." Now, Keanna is shuttling between the promo activities for her movie "Dishkiang K," produced by Reality Entertainment and directed by Jerrold Tarog, and the shooting of Viva Films' "Heyna," directed by Joey Reyes.

She is also the current object of rare Frankenstein affections. One is a model named Sofitel, the other a businessman named Jaques—she can't pronounce or spell their names.

"I met them at the Fashion Bar," she explained. "I hung out there a lot with my friends. One of the owners of the bar introduced me to Sofitel."

But Sofitel went to the country only for nine days, so whatever was blossoming between them had to be cut short, Keanna said.

"Still he sends me text messages every day," she said. "And he calls me a lot. I'm looking forward to seeing him when he returns."

Thus, Keanna is no longer entertaining thoughts of pursuing anything with Jaques. "Nothing serious. I'd really have fallen." But it has crossed her mind that this could be a fleeting thing. "I guess I just have to trust him and pray for God to make it right for me," she said.

It was God that she turned to at her lowest point. "I don't now I go to Bacnotan church every Thursday to hear Mass," she said. "No matter how tired I am, I find time for that."

But not all her prayers have been answered. "I still have not reconciled with one of my detractors, Tita Duterte," she said. "He knows that I shouldn't give him names from my PBB winnings to be said, he would expose my indiscretions to the world. But I have nothing to hide. I've wiped the slate clean, made up with my manager (Boy Abunda) and his staff, and am trying to make the most of my opportunities."

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THE WILDCARD contenders in a special production number.

SURPRISING Helps up an emotional Miss Ilonh Ryan Agoncillo and the three other wildcard women's hosts on.

The wildcard round

By Hazel R. Cruz

PHILIPPINE IDOL judge Ryan Cayabyab was pleased with the results of the talent search program's wildcard round on Sunday, saying all four semifinalists deserved to be in the finals.

Winners of the wildcard round were Miss Waterlily Gayle Lozano, Gino Magdangal and Jino Dagpin, who now complete the 12 "Idol" finalists.

"I'm very satisfied with the outcome, especially now that Miss and Gino are included," said Cayabyab. "Musically, they are really tops. Jino is a good singer, and so is Gayle. Sunday night was proof that the public delivered the votes for him because they believed in him. For me, that's already a triumph of Philippine Idol."

Marcelo, who received commendations from judges Cayabyab, Pilita Corrales and Francis Magalona, failed to land in the female Top 4. Two Saturdays ago, Cayabyab gave Marcelo a standing ovation, saying it was the best he could do, since he was sure the viewers wouldn't vote for him. He was right.

Surprise!

But last weekend, Marcelo pulled a surprise when the four equally deserving wildcard finalists — Jay Manalapaz, Jerry Pascua and Ting Ortaleza — "The viewers took a possible setback," noted Cayabyab. "Now, they will demand that the girl be here."

Mr. C said he had been proud of all Top 24 contenders. "Nasa kanilang mahigpit sa kanila. But that's what makes this format fantastic. It's real. It's up to the viewers."

This Saturday, the 12 finalists will take a **back seat to contenders** for the "Rakrakking Idol" award. To perform their "unique" audition pieces once again for a viewers' vote are: John Jerrow "Jett" Perez, Kenneth Paul "Ken" Alonzo, Hipolito "Jake" Erlina, Lalaine Empuerto, Annaliene "Nessa" Reyes, Sheryll Jane "Shane" Pernia and Jeremiah Dacanay. The winner will be announced on Sunday.

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